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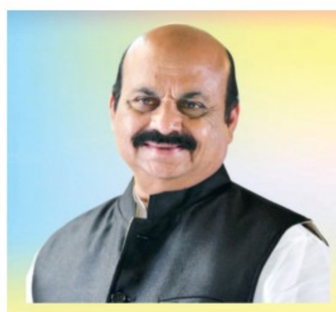

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಎಸ್. ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ವಿಶ್ವ ಏಡ್ಸ್ ದಿನ–2022

"ಸಮಾನಗೊಳಿಸು!"

ಏಡ್ಸ್ ಅಂತ್ಯವನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಿ ಅಸಮಾನತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊನೆಗಾಣಿಸಲು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರ ಆರೋಗ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ಖುಷಿಯಾಗಿಡಲು ವಿಶ್ವವು ಒಂದಾಗಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ.

WORLD AIDS DAY-2022

"Equalize!"

The world to unite to end the inequalities holding back the end of AIDS. To keep everyone safe, to protect everyone's health, we need to equalize

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 01.12.2022, ಸ್ಥಳ : ಹೊಸ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರ

ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹೆಚ್‌ಐವಿ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ತಿಳಿಯಲು ಕೂಡಲೇ ಹತ್ತಿರದ ಐಸಿಟಿಸಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಚಿತ ಹೆಚ್‌ಐವಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ.

Know your HIV Status, get HIV Test today at your nearest ICTC.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಚಿತ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ 1097 ಕ್ಕೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಹಾಗೂ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಡಾ. ಕೆ. ಸುಧಾಕರ್‌ರವರು ವಿಶ್ವ ಏಡ್ಸ್ ದಿನದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡಿರುವುದು.

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ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ : ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಏಡ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರಿವೆನ್ಷನ್ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

NEARBY

PFI ban: HC upholds notification

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday dismissed a petition questioning the action of the Union government in giving "immediate effect" to the ban on Popular Front of India. » Page 4

State's MMR reduces to 69 per lakh live births

BENGALURU
Karnataka's Maternal Mortality Ratio has declined by 14 points from 83 per lakh live births in 2017–18 to 69 in 2018–20, indicating that the number of women dying during childbirth has reduced. » Page 3

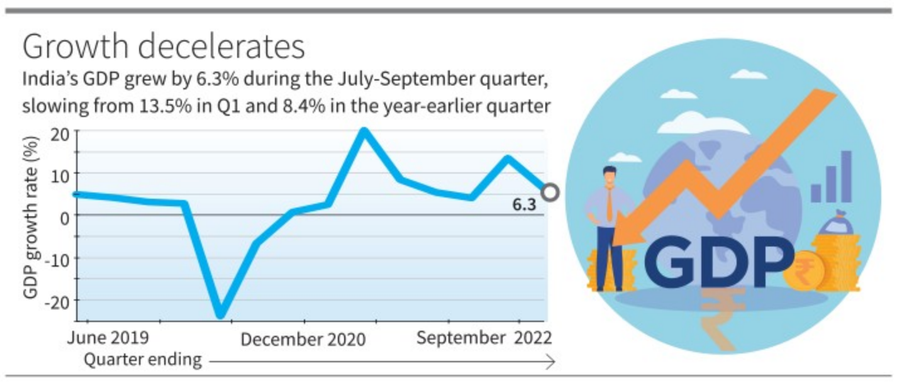
GDP growth dips to 6.3% as manufacturing slides

Chief Economic Adviser Nageswaran says nation's recovery from pandemic continues; economy growing faster than in other countries and is on track for a 6.8%-7% expansion in this fiscal year

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Manufacturing and mining output contracted year-on-year in the July-September quarter, dragging Gross Value Added growth to a slower-than-expected 5.6%, which together with high inflation and weak exports combined to slow overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to a 6.3% pace, as per estimates released by the National Statistical Office.

At a little over ₹75 lakh crore, India's GDP in the first half of 2022-23 was 5.7% larger than the comparable pre-COVID level. The April to June quarter of this fiscal had witnessed GDP growth of 13.5%, with GVA expanding 12.7%.



While growth in agriculture GVA quickened to 4.6% in the second quarter, from 4.5% in the preceding three months, manufacturing and mining GVA contracted 4.3% and 2.8%, respectively, in Q2 compared with a year earlier. For the first half of 2022-23, the Indian economy recorded 9.7% growth in GDP, compared with 13.7% in the same period last year, while GVA rose 9%, compared with its 12.8% surge.

Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran said the data confirms that the economy's recovery from the pandemic continues and is on track to clock between 6.8% to 7% real GDP growth this year.

Among GVA components, the sharpest growth in Q2 was reported by the contact-intensive trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting segment which surged 14.7%.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

SC set to look into Bilkis Bano's petitions against early release of 11 convicts

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Seeking answers: Women protesting in Mangaluru against the decision to release 11 convicts in the Bilkis case. H.S. MANJUNATH

Chief Justice of India D. Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday agreed to look into the listing of two petitions filed by Bilkis Bano – who was gang-raped and whose seven family members were murdered during the 2002 Gujarat riots – against the Gujarat government's decision to prematurely release 11 convicts serving life sentence in the case.

Making an oral mentioning before the CJI's Bench, advocate Shobha Gupta, for Ms. Bano, said her client had filed a review petition against a Supreme Court decision in May 2022 to allow the Gujarat government to consider the plea for early release of the convicts under the State's Premature Release Policy of 1992. Ms. Gupta said the remission policy of the State of Maharashtra, where the trial happened, and not that of Gujarat would have governed the case.

The Supreme Court in May 2022 held that remission would be considered as per the policy which was in vogue at the time of conviction. The court's judgment had come on a plea filed by one of the 11 convicts, Radheshyam Bhagwandas Shah. The court had even directed Gujarat to consider the application of Shah within two months.

Ms. Bano has challenged the release in a separate writ petition, arguing that the release affected her fundamental right to life.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Indian and U.S Army personnel during the joint exercise *Yudh Abhyas* at Tapovan in Uttarakhand on Wednesday. PTI

India-U.S. exercise near LAC irks China

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China on Wednesday said it had expressed its concern to India over the joint India-U.S. military exercise, *Yudh Abhyas*, being conducted in Uttarakhand, about 100 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"The joint military exercise between India and the U.S. close to the LAC at the China-India border violates the spirit of the agreements signed between India and China in 1993 and 1996. It does not serve the mutual trust between India and China," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a media briefing in Beijing.

CHINA WARNS U.S.
» PAGE 8

Govt. trying to delay BBMP polls beyond May 2023, says SEC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Election Commission (SEC) on Wednesday alleged before both the High Court of Karnataka and the Supreme Court that the State government appears to be seeking three more months to issue a fresh notification to fix the reservation for the wards of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike "only with a view to prolonging and delaying the conduct of election to the BBMP beyond May 2023".

"The election to the State Legislative Assembly will be due before May 2023 and if the election schedule for the Assembly is declared then the elections to the BBMP would get postponed indefinitely," the SEC said in its statement opposing the government's application seeking three more months, with effect from November 30, to issue the fresh notification on reservation.

Direction sought

Also, the SEC filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the government to issue the fresh notification on reservation immediately.

Taking note that the SEC had sought direction from the apex court, Justice Hemant Chandangoudar adjourned the hearing on the application filed by the State government seeking three more months.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

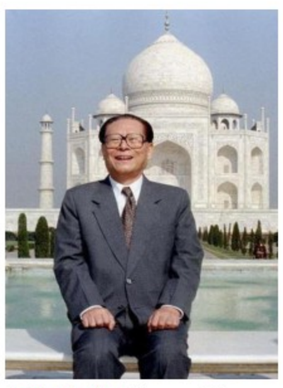
Jiang Zemin, who oversaw China's economic transformation, passes away

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, who led China during a decade of extraordinary economic growth, passed away in Shanghai on Wednesday, aged 96.

Mr. Jiang's death comes at an extraordinary time for Chinese politics, and days after protests in many Chinese cities on a scale not seen since 1989, a year when the death of a pro-reform leader, Hu Yaobang, catalysed a pro-democracy student moment.

For many in China, the decade until 2002 under



India diaries: Former Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Agra on November 30, 1996. REUTERS

Mr. Jiang and former Premier Zhu Rongji is still remembered as an era of relative openness and of unprecedented economic opportunity. Mr. Jiang took over amid the chaos of 1989 and the brutal crackdown of the pro-democracy movement, handpicked by then leader Deng Xiaoping as the man to guide China out of a sensitive moment.

Crucial role

Mr. Jiang's biggest legacy will be his shepherding of China's economic reforms and growth. The economy grew five-fold during this time, from $347 billion in 1989 to $1.47 trillion in 2002. The return of Hong Kong to China in 1997 and its entry into the World Trade Organisation in 2001 were two landmark moments of the Jiang era.

"This period is sometimes treated as an interregnum between two really tall leaders, Deng Xiaoping on the one hand and Xi Jinping on the other, who dominate the landscape, but these were in fact the most productive years of Communist China's history," Vijay Gokhale, former Foreign Secretary, envoy to China, and author of *After Tiananmen: The Rise of China*, told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Contributions received by BJP six times higher than Congress

614.53 In ₹ crore, the amount received by the ruling BJP as contributions, more than six times the funds garnered by Congress during the fiscal year 2021-22. The Congress received funds to the tune of ₹95.46 crore, according to Election Commission data. The Trinamool Congress received ₹43 lakh as contributions. PTI

China's stockpile of nuclear warheads will increase by 2035

1,500 The number of nuclear warheads China is likely to have by 2035, up from the current estimated number of 400, according to the Pentagon in a report. China's current nuclear modernisation exercise has exceeded the previous modernisation attempts in both scale and complexity, the report said. PTI

Discom dues to gencos and traders dip in the last six months

24,680 In ₹ crore, the amount by which outstanding dues of electricity distribution firms (discoms) towards gencos, transcos and traders have come down in the last six months. Five States have taken ₹16,812 crore loan while eight States have opted to make their own arrangements to pay back dues. PTI

Assets of re-contesting councillors in Delhi elections rise

89 The percentage of re-contesting councillors in the municipal elections in Delhi whose assets have increased by 3 to 4,437%, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The average assets of these 84 re-contesting councillors in 2022 are ₹4.37 crore and their average asset growth since the last election in 2017 is ₹1.44 crore. PTI

Benchmark Sensex hits the 63k mark for the first time

63,000 The level the Benchmark BSE Sensex touched for the first time on Wednesday, extending its winning momentum to the seventh day amid a largely positive trend in global markets and continuous foreign fund inflows. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The Assam-Meghalaya border firing

What is the boundary dispute between the two States? Does the current incident have bearing on this dispute? What has been the response from the governments of the two States? Have there been political ramifications in Meghalaya considering its bound for elections next year?

EXPLAINER

Rahul Karmakar

The story so far:

A bid by the Assam police and forest personnel to catch alleged timber smugglers from Meghalaya led to the killing of six people at a place claimed by each State to be within its territory. Apart from heightening tensions along a stretch of the interstate boundary, the incident sparked protests and stray cases of violence in Meghalaya's capital Shillong and a temporary suspension of vehicular movement between the two States. It also led to a delay in the process of resolving the Assam-Meghalaya boundary dispute.

What led to the firing?

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma agreed with his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K. Sangma that the firing at about 3 am on November 22 was unprovoked. But the Assam government has insisted the incident had nothing to do with the boundary dispute and was the fallout of its crusade against the smuggling of timber by miscreants who operate on either side of the undefined sections of the 884.9 km boundary between the two States. But the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), taking note of a memorandum by Mr. Sangma, attributed the firing to the border dispute, "a larger issue pending for long". Had the dispute been settled, such type of incidents would have been averted, the commission said on November 29. The commission further said the incident allegedly happened after the detention of a timber-laden truck, chased by the Assam police and forest personnel, at Mukroh village. The villagers became agitated upon the entry of Assam police and forest personnel and surrounded them, leading to the firing. Five villagers and an Assam Forest guard were killed, the NHRC said.

What was the immediate fallout?

What seemed to be a local incident from far became fodder for pressure groups in poll-bound Meghalaya to rail against the Sangma-led coalition government for failing to protect border residents. Stray cases of arson, vandalisation of Assam-registered vehicles, and attacks on security personnel and civilians – mostly non-tribals – marked the protests in Shillong. For six days after the incident, Assam police restricted the movement of vehicles to Shillong and other parts of eastern Meghalaya for security reasons. Assam-based taxi operators also prevented Meghalaya-registered vehicles to enter the State. Tourism in Meghalaya was hit hard in a year it had recorded the highest number of footfalls with many tourists cancelling their trips and some cutting short their stay to get out of uncertainty. The complications arising out of the Mukroh incident also delayed the process of resolving the boundary dispute between the two States in the remaining six of the 12 sectors. "We may not be able to go for talks immediately," Mr. Sangma said on November 29. The dispute in the other six sectors was resolved through an agreement on March 29.

Tensions soar: Security personnel stand guard near a forest office after it was vandalised following violence at the disputed Assam-Meghalaya border. PTI

How is the boundary dispute linked to the incident?

Although the Assam government claims to the contrary, the fact that the two governments refer to the place of the incident by two names makes it apparent that the boundary dispute is intertwined. While Meghalaya says the place is Mukroh in West Jaintia Hills District, Assam claims it is Mukhrow or Moikrang in West Karbi Anglong district. The village is also very close to Block 1, one of the six dispute sectors that remain to be resolved. Whatsoever may be the dispute between the two States, the NHRC said the police have to use restraint in such situations and examine the standard operating procedure for firing by the armed forces in areas of a border dispute. It also asked the Union Home Secretary and the Assam Chief Secretary to examine and evolve mechanisms or suggest measures to prevent such type of incidents.

How did the boundary dispute start?

Meghalaya, carved out of Assam as an autonomous State in 1970, became a full-fledged State in 1972. The creation of the new State was based on the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969, which the Meghalaya government refused to accept. This was because the Act followed the recommendations of a 1951 committee to define the boundary of Meghalaya. On that panel's recommendations, areas of the present-day East Jaintia Hills, Ri-Bhoi and West Khasi Hills districts of Meghalaya were transferred to the Karbi Anglong, Kamrup (metro) and Kamrup districts of Assam. Meghalaya contested these transfers after statehood, claiming that they belonged to its tribal chieftains. Assam said the Meghalaya government could neither provide documents nor archival materials to prove its claim over these areas.

After claims and counter-claims, the dispute was narrowed down to 12 sectors on the basis of an official claim by Meghalaya in 2011.

THE GIST

- A bid by the Assam police and forest personnel to catch alleged timber smugglers from Meghalaya led to the killing of six people at a place claimed by each State to be within its territory.
- Although the Assam government claims that the incident wasn't about the boundary issue, the fact that the two governments refer to the place of the incident by two names makes it apparent that the boundary dispute is intertwined. While Meghalaya says the place is Mukroh in West Jaintia Hills District, Assam claims it is Mukhrow or Moikrang in West Karbi Anglong district.
- The incident has become fodder for pressure groups in poll-bound Meghalaya to rail against the Sangma-led coalition government for failing to protect border residents. There have been reportings of stray cases of arson, vandalisation of Assam-registered vehicles, and attacks on security personnel and civilians.

Are ransomware attacks increasing in India?

What happened at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences? How does a ransomware infect a computer? How many organisations in India are working toward cyber-crime responses and prevention?

Devesh K. Pandey
Arnabjit Sur

The story so far:

On November 23, e-services at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) were crippled by what is being suspected to be a ransomware attack. The Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations have registered a case and launched investigations to identify the perpetrators, while cyber security experts are employing software tools for data recovery. They have been able to retrieve a significant number of files. However, pending sanitisation of the entire network and its nodes, all hospital services are currently being executed manually. AIIMS has a Local Area Network comprising more than 6,500 computers supporting the institute, its hospital, centres and other departments. While a probe is underway to determine if essential safety protocols were in place, measures are being taken to thwart any such attack in the future.

What is ransomware?

Ransomware is a type of malicious software, used by cyber criminals, to infect a computer system by blocking access to the stored data by encrypting the files. A ransom is then demanded from the owner in exchange for the decryption key.

While it is not yet clear as to how exactly the AIIMS computer systems were targeted, the malware may usually be injected remotely by tricking the user into downloading it upon clicking an ostensibly safe web link sent via email or other means, including hacking. It can spread throughout the network by exploiting existing vulnerabilities. Ransomware attacks can also be accompanied by theft of sensitive data for other sinister motives.

How serious are ransomware attacks?

Preliminary findings by cyber experts have indicated that at least five of the AIIMS' servers that hosted data related to more than three crore patients were compromised. In India, several cases of ransomware attacks targeting commercial and critical infrastructure have been reported in the recent past. In May, Spicejet had faced such a threat, while Public Sector Undertaking Oil India was targeted on April 10. Cybersecurity firm Trellix, in its third-quarter global report, has identified 25 major ransomwares in circulation. According to the Interpol's first-ever Global Crime Trend report presented at its 90th General Assembly meeting in Delhi this October, ransomware was the second highest-ranking threat after money laundering, at 66%. It is also expected to increase the most (72%).

Which agencies in India deal with cyber-attacks?

Set up in 2004, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is the national nodal agency that collects, analyses and circulates inputs on cyber-attacks; issues guidelines, advisories for preventive measures, forecasts and issues alerts; and takes measures to handle any significant cyber security event. It also imparts training to computer system managers. The National Cyber Security Coordinator, under the National Security Council Secretariat, coordinates with different agencies at the national level on cybersecurity issues, while the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre has been set up for the protection of national critical information infrastructure. According to the government, the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) has been launched for detection of malicious software programmes and to provide free tools to remove the same, while the National Cyber Coordination Centre works on creating awareness about existing and potential threats.

THE GIST

- On November 23, e-services at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) were crippled by what is being suspected to be a ransomware attack.
- Ransomware is a type of malicious software, used by cyber criminals, to infect a computer system by blocking access to the stored data by encrypting files.
- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is the national nodal agency that collects, analyses and circulates inputs on cyber-attacks; issues guidelines, advisories for preventive measures, forecasts and issues alerts; and takes measures to handle any significant cyber security event.

From Page One

Govt. trying to delay BBMP polls, says SEC

The government had sought three more months while stating that the dedicated commission, headed by a retired judge of the High Court, which is examining the political reservation for other backward classes, was yet to give clarifications sought by the government.

However, the SEC has contended that even though the Commission had communicated its stand on reservation for OBCs, the government appears to have sought clarification only with a view to overcome directions issued by the High Court and the apex court.

Referring to the communications between the government and the dedicated commission, the SEC has said that apparently neither the government nor the commission had the empirical data available with them with respect to political backwardness. The High Court, in its September 30 verdict of quashing reservation for OBCs and women, had directed the government to issue a fresh notification by November 30 after getting a fresh report from the dedicated commission on OBC reservation based on empirical data.

INBRIEF

CCB unearths e-cigarette racket, arrests seven

The Narcotics wing of the Central Crime Branch on Wednesday unearthed an e-cigarette racket and arrested seven people who were selling the banned e-cigarettes. Based on a tip-off, three teams of officials from the Narcotics wing raided shops in Koramangala, Banasawadi, and Pulakeshinagar and seized cigarettes worth ₹41 lakh. Inquiries revealed that the accused were from Kerala and were sourcing them from China through their contacts, via Chennai and Kerala. They sold them for ₹2,000 to ₹2,500 a piece.

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (December 1, Thursday), the following explainer is available:

- The Assam-Meghalaya border firing
bit.ly/assammeghaborder

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'Rapid road' stretch of OMR yet to open; motorists face detours

Only minor work is left, say BBMP officials as the pilot project has missed the three-day deadline set on November 23

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Regular users of the busy Old Madras Road (OMR) in east Bengaluru, who had been putting up with its poor state, were relieved and elated when the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) announced that the road will be taken up for repair under the pilot 'rapid road' project. The civic body on November 23 claimed that the work on the road, which sees heavy traffic throughout the day, including inter-State buses and vehicles, would be completed in three days.

Cut to the present and motorists are still struggling with detours as the roadworks have not yet been completed. Curing, ramp, and footpath works were going on Wednesday, leading to traffic gridlocks at many places on the stretch. What has made it worse is that roads around Indiranagar area are being white-topped.

When the BBMP started the 'rapid road' work on OMR, civic officials said that while white-topping roads take around 30 days, this rapid road work would only take two or three days. The BBMP took up the project on a 500-metre stretch. The project includes the fabrication of the concrete slabs, which are 20 feet in length and 5 feet in width, in the factory itself and embedding them on the road.

However, with the project still incomplete, commuters and the public are forced to use alternative routes. "Due to the ongoing construction work on OMR, it is hard for us to commute. Our deliveries are being delayed. The government should make sure the work is completed as soon as possible," said Azharuddin, an online food delivery partner.

Work under way on Old Madras Road in Bengaluru. NAVYA M.S.

Another motorist complained about the delay in the white-topping work on 100-feet road and Paramahansa Yogananda Road. "A lot of people use the road. The BBMP could have taken up the pilot project on any other road that is not as busy as this," said Ramchandra.

BBMP officials said the concrete slabs had been laid on the stretch and only a few works, including the ramp and footpath work, are ongoing. "As per the earlier deadline, we have completed the rapid road project, but only a little work is pending. The stretch will be opened for vehicle movement in three days," a senior BBMP official told *The Hindu*.

'Curing will take time

Meanwhile, experts feel that the rapid road, which is widely used in developed countries, can be considered in Bengaluru since the roadworks will be completed in three days. However, they acknowledged that delays would happen during the curing work. Traffic expert M.N. Srihari told *The Hindu*, "Rapid road is better when compared with white-topping. However, curing will take more time."

(Inputs from Navya M.S. and Bharath Gowda B.R.)

KSCPCR registers *suo motu* plaint

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has registered a *suo motu* complaint after checks on schoolbags of students in Bengaluru revealed items such as condoms and cigarettes.

The commission has directed officers of the Department of Public Instruction to verify with the schools in this regard. It also instructed the schools to provide necessary counselling to the children.

Fog delays 33 flights at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An Indigo flight from Delhi was diverted to Hyderabad because of the fog

The vicinity around the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) was shrouded in a thick layer of fog on Wednesday morning, leading to flight delays. Airport officials said that as many as 33 departures were delayed owing to the fog.

There were no delays reported with arrival flights, but Indigo flight 6E 2067 from Delhi was diverted to Hyderabad because of the fog.

Some passengers said their flights were delayed for nearly an hour. Airlines had issued an advisory to passengers that poor visibility could lead to delays.

For four months

Fog is anticipated at the KIA every winter from November 15 to February 15. The fog in the airport's vicinity is known as 'radiation fog' and is anticipated during the four months between 3 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. One runway (South Runway) at the KIA is CAT IIIB compliant which means that it can facilitate aircraft landing with a runway visual range as low as 50 metres and take-offs at 125 metres.

However, not all pilots are CAT IIIB trained, especially those operating in the domestic sector.

On the other runway, the permissible visual range is 550 m and 300 m for landing and take-off, respectively.

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e-mail : eeslidmdg@gmail.com
Ref No. KNNL/EE/SLIS/MDG/2022-23/ 1176
Date: 24-11-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (ONLY THROUGH "e-Procurement" SYSTEM)

Tenders are invited as per above references Ref. (1) Work Indent No. **34602**, for the Works of Development of Road of Koppala Legislative Assembly Constituency coming under Singataluru Lift Irrigation Project Division and Tenders can be submitted through e-procurement portal. Further the name of the works, Amount put to Tender, E.M.D. and other information on conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned officer and the Tender document can be downloaded after **28.11.2022** from website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and Bid can be submitted. Last date for submission of Bid for the Tender is **09.12.2022**. Other information can be obtained from the office of The Executive Engineer during office hours. Conditional Tenders will be rejected. The officer having the authority to receive the Tenders has the right to reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, SLIS, Division No-1, Mundaragi, Gadag Dist.,

DIPR/Gadag/MCA/458/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LOST DOCUMENTS

The General Public is hereby informed that my client, **Mrs. Shilpa M Jain,** aged about 46 years, wife of Mr. Manish Dhingra, presently residing at No. 719, 9th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560038, has lost /misplaced the following Original Documents and the same are not traceable till date in respect of **Site No. 719,** 9th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 038 formed by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and bounded on the East by: Site No. 694, West by : 9th Cross Road, North by : 30 feet Wide Road and South by : Site No.718, in all measuring **1400 square feet** along with a residential building constructed thereon :

(a) Sale Deed dated 07 August 1968 executed by BEV Employees Co-operative Credit Society Ltd in favour of Mr. V. O. Balasundaram, registered as Document No. 1267/1968-69, pages 100 to 104 Volume 1517 of Book I in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore.

(b) Sale Deed dated 08 August 1968 executed by Mr. V. O. Balasundaram in favour of Mr.P. Motilal in favour of Mrs. Rajeswari, registered as Document No. 1280/1968-69, pages 212 to 215 Volume 1516 of Book I in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore

A Lost Article Report No. 0399504/2022 dated 29.11.2022 has been filed online with the Police Unit: Bengaluru City Police, in this regard.

Any person in possession of the above referred original documents may kindly handover the same to the undersigned.

Except Mrs. Shilpa M Jain, no other person/s has/have any share, right, title, interest and ownership over the aforesaid immovable property.

Any person or persons dealing with the aforesaid property other than Mrs. Shilpa M Jain, shall be doing so at their own risk, cost and consequence.

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 30.11.2022

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SILPA Patnaik ,D/O Ramesh Kumar Patnaik ,R/O Flat No D–309, Desai Radiant, 4th Cross Rd, Ambedkar Nagar, Whitefield, Blr–66. have changed my name as "Shilpa Patnaik" vide afdvt dtd 29/11/2022.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. No. 25365/2022
Hg. 10.01.2023
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
And
M/s. Mars Educational and Rural Welfare Trust D-2
...Defendant
Summons
M/s. Mars Education & Rural Welfare Trust
Rep. by Mr. G. R. Babu,
S/o. Thimmarayappa Ramppa
Aged about 41 years, 16 Gandhi Nagar Guttahalli, Koramangala, Bangarpet, Kolar- 563114.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 17,27,364.96/- (Rupees Sevnteen Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty Four and Paise Ninety Six Only)**, together with interest at the rate of **12.15% p.a.**, in **O.S. No. 25365/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-58,** Before 57th Addl. City Civil Court Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 10th Day of January, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 18th day of November, 2022.

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayohall
Bengaluru- 560 001

FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MARIAM Jasmine, D/o E T Jose Thomas, R/o #274, 1st Floor, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, BDA Layout Domlur, Bengaluru-560071 have changed my name from Mariam Jasmine to Jasmi Jose vide affidavit dated 30-10-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IX ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-5)
O.S. No.700/2022
PLAINTIFF: Mr. Syed Muzammil, S/o syed Mahmood, aged about 56 years, R/at. TF-301, Asharath Mansion, No.18/1, Bethel Street, HRBR 2nd Block, Kalyanagar, Bengaluru-560043. **-V/s-**
DEFENDANTS : Mr. Joseph Albert & Others
NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT No.4
4. Mr. Haseeb Khan, aged about 37 years, S/o. Mr. Mehboob Khan, having place of business at No. 3, Chick Bazaar Road Cross, Tasker Town, Bengaluru-560084.

Whereas, the Plaintiff has instituted the above suit against the Defendants, praying the Hon'ble Court to pass an order of permanent injunction against the Defendants restraining the Defendants, their agents, supporters, henchmen etc., and or any other person/s claiming under or through them from dispossessing and from interfering with my peaceful possession of Plaintiff and enjoyment of the Plaint Schedule "B" Property & restraining the Defendants not to alienate, encumber, create third party interest, mortgage in respect of the Schedule "B" Property in any manner except the due process of law.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY

Flat bearing No. TF 001, Third Floor, "HARMAIN ALBERT LEGACY", measuring Approx 3051 Sq. Ft. subject to floor plan after completion of super built up area to be constructed over premises bearing Corporation No.31 and No.31/1 (Old No.5/3-B) BBMP PID No.91-75-31 & 91-75-31/1, now Premises No.31, and having its PID No.91-75-31, situated at Promenade Road, Division No.47,Pulikeshinagar, BMP Ward No.78 (91), Civil Station, Bangalore, now comes under the limits of BBMP, comprising of 4 Bedrooms with attach bathrooms, dining hall, hall, kitchen with utility, with common stair case, lift and individual electric meters, one closed Car parking with the basement/parking area and undivided (UDS) share of 649 Sq. Ft. The Apartment has a bore well, BWSS Meter connection with sump and Overhead tanks and bounded on : **East by:** Passage to premises No.5/3: Promenade Road and Premises No. 5/3A, Promenade Road, **West by:** Premises No.5/3-C, Promenade Road, **North by :** No.5/3-C, Open space of the previous Vendor, **South by:** Promenade Road.

The above suit has been posted to **05-01-2023 at 11.00 a.m.** for your appearance.

Take notice, to appear before the Hon'ble Court, IX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, at Bengaluru, CCH-5, either personally or through pleader and to file objections if any. If you fail to do so, the above matter will be decided exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 29/11/2022.

By order of the court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff:
SRI SHAKEEL ABDUL RAHIMAN
M/s. P.H. Mohammed Associates,
No.24, Davis Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore-560084.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PUSHPA ,W/O Madhu Sudan Varkadi, R/O E–104, Adarsh Residency, 8th Blk, 47th Cross, Jayanagar, Blr–70.have changed my name as "Pushpa Madhusudan" vide afdvt dtd 29/11/2022.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. No. 26529/2021
Hg: 10.01.2023
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Sudarshan N.
...Defendant
Summons
Mr. Sudarsha N.
S/o Narasima,
Aged about 39 years, Sri Narasima Tours & Travels, No. 23, Lake Road, Patel Kempa Layout, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560058

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 7,38,568.62/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Eight and Paise Sixty Two Only)**, together with interest at the rate of **11.52% p.a.**, in **O.S. No. 26529/2021** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-58,** Before 57th Addl. City, Civil Court. Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 10th Day of January, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 18th day of November, 2022.

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayahall
Bengaluru- 560 001

FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, V RUBA is legally wedded spouse of No. 10490142F Rank HAV Name D Tamilvanan presently residing at Kodakkaramoolai (Vill & PO), Sirkali (Teh), Nagapattinam (Dist), Tamil Nadu-609101 that have declared to changed my name from V Ruba to Ruba T vide affidavit dated 29 Sep 2022 before Y.R.Chandrasekar B.Com, LL.B, Advocate & Notary, R T Nagar, Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF XXVI ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. NO. 26617/2018
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Sandeep D. **...Plaintiff**
V/s.
Mr. Mallikarjunaswamy
...Defendant
Summons To Defendant
Mr. Mallikarjunaswamy
S/o Mr. Shivanna, Aged About 30 Years, No. 21, 6th Main Road, Sollapuradamma Badavane, Sunkadakatte, Bangalore- 560091

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 2,59,228.28/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Eight and Paise Twenty Eight Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 26617/2018** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH-20,** Before XXVI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **12th** Day of **January, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **22nd day** of **November, 2023.**

Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
Bengaluru- 560 001

FX & Co., ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. Padmakumar. B. S. S/o. Sri. V. Bhaskarapillai, is intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owners Sri. Suresh Jain, S/o. Sri. Chaganlal, residing at No. 21/5, Craig park layout, MG Road, Bangalore and Agreement holder M/s. SAI PRAKRUTHI GARDENIAA. Rep. by its Authorized Partners 1. Sri. M. B. Kiran 2. Sri. Rohit Kumar Tiwari.

If any person/s having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of their such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential plot No. 76, in the layout know as "SAI PRAKRUTHI GARDENIAA" formed in Sy. No. 28/2 & 28/3 property bearing BBMP katha No. 232/27/28/2/28/3/28/4 (BBMP file No. Vaale/PR/KTR/47/2010-11, MR No. 230/2010-11, measuring 10 Acre 03 Guntas, situated at Kogilu, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore. measuring East to West 45 Feet, North to South 30 Feet, total 1350 Sq. Feet. and bounded on: East by : Site No. 65, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 75, South by : Site No. 77.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
 # 96, 1 Floor, 1 Main, 4 Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 30-11-2022

भारतीय खाद्य निगम **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय स. १०, पूर्वी छोर, मुख्य मार्ग, चौथा क्लॉक, जयनगर
REGIONAL OFFICE No.10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR,बेंगलुरु/BENGALURU - 560041

सं. आरओ केए-32.0011.0/5/2022-कॉन-रो केए दिनांक: 30.11.2022
No. RO KA-32.0011.0/5/2022-CON-RO KA Date: 30.11.2022

ई–निविदा सूचना/e-Tender Notice

ऑनलाइन निविदाएं जी ई एम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली 'के तहत दो वर्ष हेतु **1) आरएच/एफएसडी महुर के लिए एचटीसी, 2) आरएच/जीएस और एफ़ेएसडी नंजनगुड के लिए एचटीसी, 3) आरएच/एफएसडी मैसुरु के लिए एचटीसी, 4) एफएसडी केआर नगर/जीएस मैसूर में एचटीसी और जीएस/एफएसडी मैसूर से एफएसडी केआर नगर तक परिवहन, 5) रेल साइडिंग / एफएसडी बल्लारी के लिए एचटीसी,** आमंत्रित की जा रही है। एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर उपलब्ध हैं । ऑनलाइन बोलियां **23.12.2022 को अपराहन 02:00 बजे तक** प्रस्तुत की जानी हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।

Online Tenders for regular **1) HTC at RH/FSD Maddur, 2) HTC at RH/GS & FSD Nanjangud, 3) HTC for RH/FSD Mysuru, 4) HTC at FSD KR Nagar/ GS Mysuru & Transportation from GS/FSD Mysuru to FSD KR Nagar, 5) HTC at RS/FSD Ballari** for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in".** Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 23.12.2022.** For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in**.

महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (KTK)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058. LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (LCMG)
[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5193, 5093, 5086, Fax: (080)-28392310]

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e-tender are invited for the following works:

Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Supply & Erection of 13 Passenger Capsule Lift with Outer Enclosure Civil work for Lecture Hall at Admin Block, LEOS Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Civil works) NIET No: LEOS/CMG/CAPS/LIFT/CW-02/2021-22 Dtd:28.11.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. : Rs. 41.78 Lakhs EMD Rs: 83,561/- Period of Completion in months :** 04 months Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 01.12.2022 **Closing Date :** 14.12.2022

Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Contract for Washing & Pressing of Leveries for one year at LEOS Campus & New guest house, Peenya, Bangalore-58. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2022-23/LAM-15 Dtd:28.11.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. : Rs. 2.10 Lakhs EMD Rs: 4199/- Period of Completion in months :** 12 months Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 01.12.2022 **Closing Date :** 12.12.2022

Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Contract for Rodent and Pest Control for one year at LEOS Campus, Aryabhata Building and Guest House, Peenya, Bangalore-58. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2022-23/LAM-16 Dtd:28.11.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. : Rs. 5.08 Lakhs EMD Rs: 10,156/- Period of Completion in months :** 12 months Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 01.12.2022 **Closing Date :** 12.12.2022

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting **e-Tender** (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

-Sd- GROUP DIRECTOR, CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG), URSC, BANGLAORE.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered eligible contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD(In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	East -1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2078/2022-23 Date: 28.11.2022 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs. 16,05,898.62 / Rs. 20,100/-	15.12.2022 upto 4:00 p.m.	17.12.2022 after 5:00 p.m.
2		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2078/2022-23 Date: 28.11.2022 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs. 43,58,386/- / Rs. 43,585/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2080/2022-23 Date: 28.11.2022	Rs. 13,27,393/- / Rs. 33,185/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2080/2022-23 Date: 28.11.2022	Rs. 48,12,303/- / Rs. 96,250/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2080/2022-23 Date: 28.11.2022	Rs. 20,15,818/- / Rs. 50,000/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2080/2022-23 Date: 28.11.2022	Rs. 35,88,317/- / Rs. 71,800/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2080/2022-23 Date: 28.11.2022	Rs. 63,12,033/- / Rs. 1,26,241/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer(East)-1.

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM)West, 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

8	WWM-STP V.Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP)V.Valley/PB/ 440/2022-23 Date: 24.11.2022(2nd Call)	Rs. 82.88 Lakhs / Rs. 1.66 Lakhs	05.12.2022 upto 5:30 p.m.	07.12.2022 after 4:00 p.m.
9		BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP)V.Valley/PB/ 442/2022-23 Date: 24.11.2022(2nd Call)	Rs. 43,61,370/- / Rs. 87,227/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer(WWM-STP)-V.Valley.

10	WWM-Network V.Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-Network)-V.V/ PB/1071/2022-23 Date: 29.11.2022	Rs. 11.48 Lakhs / Rs. 33,875/-	07.12.2022 upto 5:30 p.m.	09.12.2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(WWM-N)-V.Valley.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/3313/2022-23

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Nalanda University ruins. GETTY IMAGES

Books on Patna: a fading city once loved by age-old rulers and travellers

From the accounts of Megasthenes, Fa-Hien and Hiuen Tsang to that of Amitava Kumar and Siddharth Chowdhury, one traces the journey of a city once called the 'Indian Florence' to its current landscape of political chaos

Ziya Us Salam

Many centuries before Patna came to be identified with identity politics, it was the good old Pataliputra, an ancient city founded at the confluence of the Sone and Ganga rivers. Originally founded by the Magadhan ruler Ajatshatru, Pataliputra was what Delhi was to become more than a millennium later – capital of a succession of dynasties which took pride in its fort, culture, language, law and order and even local self-government. The Greek traveler Megasthenes who came as an ambassador to the court of the Mauryas, praised Pataliputra's local self-government and the sense of honesty among locals. His book *Indika* is all but lost, but it has been quoted by several historians, including the illustrious Romila Thapar in *A History of India* (Penguin).

A city of dynasties

Her pen forms the early images of Pataliputra, an important city during the time of the Magadhan rulers, which then became the capital of the Nandas and later the Mauryas, the Guptas and the Palas. Chandragupta Maurya was born here, Asoka ruled from here, as did Chandragupta I, II and Samudragupta. Much later, it was a place of prime importance for Aurangzeb who briefly named it Azimabad after his grandson Mohammed Azim. With such pedigree, Pataliputra could as well have been the capital of modern India. After all, in the 16th century its fortunes were revived under the Afghan king Sher Shah Suri when the city came to be christened as Patna. Almost 500 years later, the city is still called by that name, and has in its own way inspired historians, non-fiction writers and novelists to trace the vicissitudes on its timeline. Yet, its story is best related by a succession of foreign travelers in ancient and medieval India, each of whom found something amazing about the city which grew out of a village called Pataligram.

A favourite of travellers

If the account by Megasthenes in *Indika* wherein he is said to have written that people in Pataliputra left their doors and gates unlocked can instantly be recalled by students of history, then those of Fa-Hien and Hiuen Tsang in the 4th and 7th century respectively, draw a picture of Pataliputra as being one among the very best cities in the world. There was political power and the attendant pelf but uniquely, there was an element of culture, a literary magnet that drew many. The universally respected Nalanda University was but a few kilometres from it. Famous Chinese monk Hiuen Tsang spent six years here. His account is probably the best memory of the rule of Harsha Vardhan in the first half of the 7th century. Before Hiuen Tsang, there was Fa-Hien, another Chinese traveler who graced the city in the fourth century. Fa-Hien wrote about it in *A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms* wherein he called Patna, 'the city of flowers', or as well-respected author Amitava Kumar wrote in his engaging book, *A Matter of Rats* (Aleph), "It is the Indian Florence".

A few centuries later came the Afghan ruler Sher Shah Suri, originally called Farid Khan. He is said to have been a brave man who killed a tiger with his bare hands. Thus named, Sher Shah, he built a fort in Patna and a mosque. The fort has crumbled and the mosque reminds us of the times that were. Talking of times, Patna did not always enjoy the best of moments in history. Or at least, some travelers didn't. While British traveler Ralph Fitch came to Patna in 1586 and described it as "a very long and great Town with a flourishing trade in cotton, sugar and opium", Scottish physician Francis Buchanan described it in unflattering expression, "difficult to imagine a more disgusting place".

The modern-day city

The fact that these distinguished travelers spent time here says something about the importance of being Patna in the days gone by. In modern days though, Patna has not been an arresting beauty for a succession of Indian writers in English. We did have E.M. Forster who made Bankipore (a residential area within Patna) the model for Chandrapore, the fictional town in *A Passage of India* besides a fleeting reference in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*. Interestingly, when the novel was adapted to cinema, the film starring the irrepressible Tabu did better business in Delhi and Mumbai than Patna. It was a comment on the decline of the fortunes of the city which seems to have fallen off the literary and cultural map. Its best pens moved out of the city for love and livelihood. A couple of them, notably Amitava Kumar and Abdullah Khan, left Patna but retained it in their heart. Khan's *Patna Blues* (Juggernaut) initially struggled to find a publisher, but once it did, the floodgates opened as the book went on to be translated into multiple languages, including Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, Bengali, Marathi and Malayalam, etc. It talks of Hindu-Muslim animosity and communal violence which, in real life, is a frequent occurrence in Bihar today. Then there are books by Siddharth Chowdhury whose *Patna Roughcut* (Picador) and *A Patna Manual of Style* (Aleph) have appealed to urban readers. Amitava Kumar's short biography of the city brought Patna to life like none other.

More recently, we have had *The Book of Bihari Literature* (HarperCollins), edited by Abhay K. The book, among other things, reproduces rather poignantly an excerpt from *The Travels of Dean Mahomed* who was born in Patna in 1759, and deprived of his father at the age of 11, an incident which made "so deep an impression" on Mahomed's mind. Mahomed's excerpt comes from the first book published in English by an Indian. His account is of the 18th century, much like those of other travelers who talked of the past, turbulent or triumphant, but long gone. Unfortunately, modern Patna is more in the news for its political shenanigans, governments coming to power and falling out of it. Not entirely unexpected in a city whose founding father was probably both a regicide and a fratricide.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Caste-related atrocities have remained blots on Indian history. 25 years ago, 58 Dalits were gunned down by the outfit Ranvir Sena in a massacre at Laxmanpur Bathe in Bihar. The memory of such incidents has propelled movements for justice

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

In 1968, 44 Dalits — five aged men, 16 women and 23 children — were burnt to death by a group of henchmen led by landlords after Dalit landless labourers had launched an agitation for higher agricultural wages in a village in Nagappatinam district in Tamil Nadu. Name the village.

QUESTION 2

Twenty-three years after Dalits (Madigas) in this village in Andhra Pradesh were attacked by a landlord caste group resulting in the deaths of six Dalits and injuries to scores of others, the Supreme Court in 2008 sentenced one man to life imprisonment and 30 others to three years of imprisonment. Name this village, located in Bapatla district.

QUESTION 3

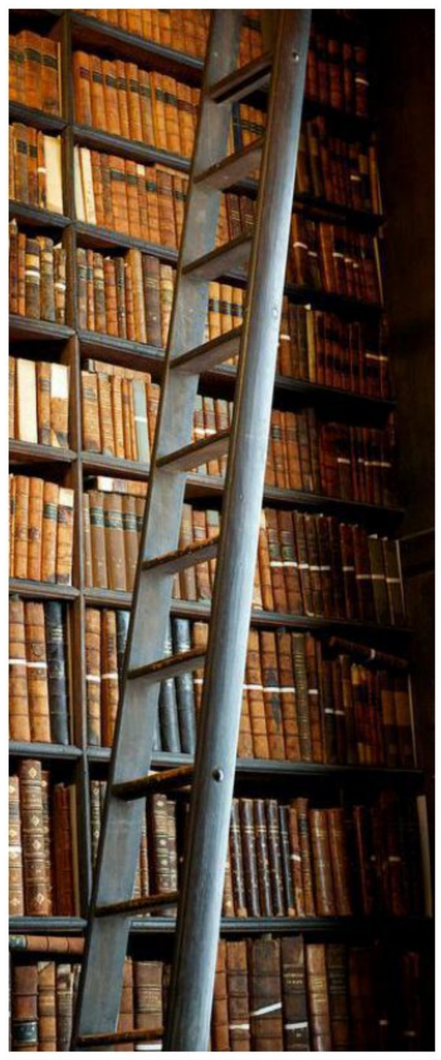
In July 2016, seven Dalits who were skinning the carcass of a dead cow were violently flogged by a group of people claiming to be part of a "cow protection group", in Gujarat. This led to massive protests by Dalits, many of whom pledged that they would give up their traditional job of removing cow carcasses. Name the city in the Saurashtra region where this incident occurred.

QUESTION 4

In 1995, this relatively prosperous and largely Dalit village in Tuticorin district in Tamil Nadu was subject to a police raid where properties and appliances of Dalit households were destroyed and the only well in the village allegedly poisoned. The Tamil film *Karnan* is loosely based on these incidents. Name the village.

Visual question:
Name this 26 year old PhD scholar who committed suicide at the University of Hyderabad, after recriminations faced by him as a Dalit student activist.

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Both these Presidents died on the same day. **Ans: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams**
2. This President was involved in this bribery scandal concerning oil leases. **Ans: Warren G. Harding, Teapot Dome scandal**
3. This was a series of violent civil confrontations in an organised incorporated territory of the U.S. **Ans: Bleeding Kansas; The confrontations were on the legality of slavery**
4. While watching this play, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. **Ans: *Our American Cousin* staged at the Ford's Theatre**
5. This President has a nickname for being a man of few words. **Ans: Calvin Coolidge, Silent Cal**
Visual: The artillery section of this President's Memorial is seen on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. **Ans: Ulysses S. Grant, who was known for his horsemanship**
Early Birds: Shivam Jha| Abhigya Singh| K. N. Viswanathan



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Mr. P. Venkateswarlu of Nagarjunasagar wants to know whether the word 'peoples' is acceptable, sir."

" 'People' is a collective noun but is always used with a plural verb.

The people of this village are very disciplined.

The tribal people in this area have no idea of what is going on in the rest of the country.

'Peoples' means 'nations' or 'races'. It was used in this sense as early as the fifteenth century.

The peoples of the third world must unite in their own interest.

The English of the English-speaking peoples varies from country to country."

"Miss R. Jayanthi of Hyderabad wants to know what is meant by a 'shoe-string budget', sir."

"A 'shoe-string budget' is a small budget. 'To live on a shoe-string' is to manage on very little money.

He started his institution on a shoe-string.

I don't know how he is managing on a shoe-string.

A shoe-string is a shoe-lace. It is thin. The comparison here is between the smallness of the money and the thinness of the lace. So a shoe-string budget is not a fat budget but a thin one."

"Mr. P. S. Yagneswaran of Coimbatore wants to know the meaning of the term 'call it a day', sir."

" 'To call it a day' means to 'stop whatever one is doing at least for the present'. 'Let's call it a day' means 'Let's stop for the time being what we are doing'. It does not mean that you stop working for the day. It only means that you don't want to continue with what you have been doing for some time. If you have been discussing a problem for some time and if you feel tired physically or mentally, you could say 'Let's call it a day'. This implies that the matter will be taken up and discussed again at an appropriate time."

"How is the word 'moustache' pronounced, sir?"

"The 'ou' is pronounced like the final sound in China. The 'a' in 'moustache' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'part', 'pass' and 'glass', 'ch' is pronounced 'sh' as in 'shape' and 'shall'. The final 'e' in the word is silent. The stress is on the second syllable. Well, let's stop here."

Word of the day

Brusque: marked by rude or peremptory shortness

Synonyms: short, curt

Usage: *His brusque comments irked the committee members.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/brusquepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /brʊsk,bru:sk,brʌsk/

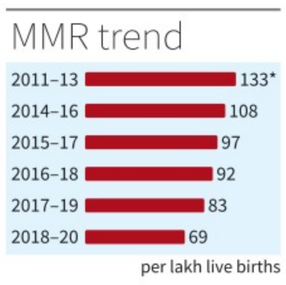
For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

State's MMR reduces to 69 per lakh live births

State achieves Sustainable Development Goal target set by the United Nations ahead of schedule; Karnataka's MMR, however, continues to be the highest among the five southern States

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Maternal Mortality Ratio determines the progress made by States in saving the lives of women during pregnancy, childbirth, and lactation. FILE PHOTO



Karnataka's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined by 14 points from 83 per lakh live births in 2017-18 to 69 in 2018-20, indicating that the number of women dying during childbirth has come down significantly.

With this, Karnataka is one of the eight States in the country that have achieved the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target much ahead of schedule. In terms of percentage, the State's MMR has dropped by 16.9%.

The United Nations had set the SDG target of reaching an MMR of 70 per lakh live births by 2030. This target had been fixed as a mark of improved health outcomes for the developing world.

The MMR is a significant indicator that defines the public health of a State. It determines the progress made by States in saving the lives of women during pregnancy, childbirth, and lactation.

Karnataka's MMR has been declining since 2016. It had reduced by nine points from 92 per lakh live births in 2016-18 to 83 in 2017-19, during the pre-COVID-19 period. In 2014-16, the State's MMR was 108 and it subsequently reduced to 97 in 2015-17.

According to the latest Sample Registration System 2018-20 bulletin for the MMR released by the Registrar-General of India on Tuesday, Karnataka's MMR continues to be the highest among the five southern States. The decline in Karnataka is the fourth highest after Kerala, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, among the five southern States.

While Kerala tops the list with the lowest MMR – 19 per lakh live births, Assam has the highest at 195.

Attributing the decline in the MMR to the collective efforts of health workers, Rajkumar N., State Deputy Director (Maternal Health), told *The Hindu* that 85 out of the 124 high-delivery load facilities are LaQshya certified now. LaQshya is a programme aimed at improving the quality of labour and operation theatre services.

Dr. Rajkumar said, "Our biggest challenge is to make all the 147 taluk hospitals functional round the clock for maternity services, including cesarean services. Efforts are being made to address issues in Dharwad, Ramanagaram, Kodagu, Yadgir, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Bidar, Shivamogga, Raichur, and Chickballapur where maternal mortality is high."

Homemaker held for killing husband with the help of her friend

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Soladevanahalli police on Wednesday arrested a 35-year-old homemaker who, with the help of her male friend, allegedly murdered her husband who was objecting to their affair and disposed of the body in a drain near Ramanagaram on November 24.

The accused, Jayalakshmi, threw the rope used to commit the murder and the mobile phone of the deceased at different directions in an open field on Mysuru-Bengaluru highway before returning home, said the police. She later went to the police and filed a missing complaint.

Call record details

However, the police, on suspicion, analysed her call record details and summoned her for questioning. A detailed questioning led Jayalakshmi to confess to the crime.

According to the police, Jayalakshmi married Dase Gowda 16 years ago and the couple had two children. Dase Gowda, who owned a farmhouse and used to run multiple businesses, was busy with his work.

Jayalakshmi had an affair with the accused Rajesh, an engineering graduate, who would visit often when Dase Gowda used to go out of the house. Dase Gowda came to know about the relationship a few months ago and used to fight with Jayalakshmi since then. He had warned Jayalakshmi and Rajesh to stay away from each other, the police said.

The duo planned to kill him to continue their affair. As per the plan, Rajesh was waiting outside the farmhouse for Dase Gowda to return on November 25. When an unsuspecting Dase Gowda came home, Jayalakshmi, as per the plan, opened the backdoor of the farmhouse to allow Rajesh in. He pounced on Dase Gowda and strangled him to death with a rope used to tie the cattle, said the police. The duo later carried the body in a car and dumped it in a drain.

Two more arrested in voters' data theft case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Halasuru Gate police on Wednesday arrested two more people from Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust in connection with the voters' data theft case. With their arrest, the total number of accused in the case has gone up to 14.

The accused Maruthi Gowda and Abhishek are the project in charge and accounts officer, respectively, of the trust and were close to the prime accused, Ravi Kumar, said the police. The accused were not only supervising the survey but also looking after the finance of the project.

The duo was summoned by the police on Tuesday for questioning and arrested on Wednesday after their role in the case was established.

Beautician murdered by live-in partner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 23-year-old beautician was murdered allegedly by her live-in partner over a trivial row at their house at T.C. Palya on Tuesday.

The deceased, Krishna Kumari from Nepal, was living with her friend Santosh Dabe, 27, a hairstylist, at a rented house for the last three years.

According to the police, on Tuesday night, Santosh had a fight with Krishna and banged her head against a wall, rendering her unconscious, and fled. Krishna had managed to call her friend Nirmala during the fight, asking for help. When Nirmala arrived, she found Krishna unconscious and took her to a hospital nearby, where doctors declared her as brought dead. The police are looking for Santosh.

Woman raped on school bus by driver

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chandra Layout police have arrested a 40-year-old bus driver of a private school on the charge of raping a 32-year-old staffer of another school on the pretext of dropping her home on Tuesday.

The accused has been identified as Shiva Kumar, while the victim is a single parent working at a private school and living with her three children.

According to the police, the victim was waiting for a bus at Nayandanalli junction around 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday when the accused, who was going home alone in the bus, offered to drop her. The accused took the bus to Nagarabhavi service road and raped her. The victim informed this incident to her son and took a picture of the bus on her phone. Later, the victim's son found the bus and the driver and assaulted the driver.

Passers-by, noticing the commotion, informed the police, who rushed to the spot and brought the duo to the station. The police, after questioning them, came to know about the incident and arrested the accused.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, DEC. 01	
RISE 06:26	SET 17:51
RISE 13:11	SET 00:26
FRIDAY, DEC. 02	
RISE 06:26	SET 17:52
RISE 13:51	SET 01:20
SATURDAY, DEC. 03	
RISE 06:27	SET 17:52
RISE 14:29	SET 02:10

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	21
Mysuru	30	19
Bengaluru	28	17

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be mostly dry. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable.Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night remains cool.

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THE HINDU
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Description of work	Due date
222313 005274	Procurement of Optical Brightening Agent for PM#1, 2 & 3 a) Wet End Liquid OBA b) Surface Liquid OBA	14.12.2022
222313 005273	Procurement of Maize Based Native Starch (in Jumbo Bags) for Unit-I	15.12.2022
222313 005275	Procurement of Sodium Hydrosulphite for Unit-I	16.12.2022
222313 005285	Procurement of Dewatering Speciality Chemical for Unit-I	14.12.2022
222313 005294	Procurement of Sulphamic Acid Commercial for Unit-I	17.12.2022
222313 005239	Design, Manufacture, Supply & Supervision of installation and Commissioning of Quality Control System (QCS) for PM#1 in TNPL Unit - I	20.12.2022
E-Mail	222313005274, 005273, 005275, 005285, 005294 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 222313005239 - pmd6@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/5309/Tender/2022 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

TIRUPATI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, TIRUPATI
COMMERCIAL SITES FOR SALE

The Commercial sites situated in the layout developed by the **Tirupati Urban Development Authority (in an extent of Ac 17.74)** in Padmavathi Nagar Layout in Surappakasam Village of Renigunta Mandal will be sold in 'E' Auction on **15-12-2022** as per the rules and regulations of TUDA. Online registrations will commence from **01-12-2022.** For details, website id **www.tudaap.in. Phone No. 0877-2225730 (8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.)** inclusive of holidays.

Sd/- Vice-Chairman, TUDA, Tirupati.

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
No.R/R1A/R153/2022-23 Date: 26.11.2022
NOTIFICATION
Sub: Reconduct of Aptitude / General Knowledge Test for recruitment to the posts of Assistant / Assistant-cum-Computer Operator in the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad…reg.
Ref: 1. Notification No.R/Rectt/Advt.53/2015 dated 11.9.2015
2. Notification No.R/Rectt/Advt.53(A)/2018 dated 15.10.2018
As per the decision of the 65th meeting of the Board of Management, UAS, Dharwad held on 17.11.2022, the Aptitude / General Knowledge Test for recruitment to the posts of Assistant / Assistant-cum-Computer Operator advertised vide University notifications cited at ref. (1) & (2) will be reconducted for the eligible candidates. The date of reconduct of examination will be informed later.
DIPR/DWD/790/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/DIV/KLB/TS5/Tender Notification/2022-23/6351 Dated: 29.11.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender (KW-1 & KW-3) for DMF (05) works of Indent No: 156934 SC Category, 156932, 160588, 156929 & 156528 tenders are called through e-procurement for the year 2022-23, 2) Estimated Cost: Estimate **cost Minimum 8.37 Lakhs & Maximum 50.34 Lakhs.** 3) Eligibility of Contractor:PWD, Registered Class-IV and Above Contractors, 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application Fees as per e-procurement EMD Minimum Rs. 20,000.00 & Maximum Rs. 1,01,000.00, 5) Last date for queries: **16/12/2022 upto 17.30 Hrs**, 6) Last date for submission of tender: **17/12/2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.** 7) Date of opening of Technical Bid: **19/12/2022 at 16:30 Hrs.** 8) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **21/12/2022 at 16.30 Hrs**, 9) Enquiries: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 10) website:**www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi
DIP/Kalaburagi/899/MC&A/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
ZILLA PANCHAYAT BELAGAVI
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHIKODI
Office Phone No.: 08338-272131, E-mail : preckdee@gmail.com
SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
No.: PRE/CKD/Db/e-pro/2022-23/4723 Date : 24-11-2022
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, State, Item Rate (Technical bids and Financial bids through E-mode), E-Bids are invited for the following works through standard tender document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3, KW-4, (Standard Tender Document) from the eligible contractors, registered in P.R.E. / P.W.D. Department & with E-procurement registration Bangalore, on **"turn-key",** basis only.

1) Last date of request for issue of blank E-bid document through e-Procurement Date : Other works	**24-11-2022 to 05-12-2022**
2) Bid Closing & Submission Date : Other works	**05-12-2022 AT 4:00 PM**
3) Financial Bid Opening Date	**07-12-2022 AT 11:00 AM**
4) Pre Bid Meeting Date : (KW-3 only)	**02-12-2022 AT 11:00 AM**
5) Technical Bid Opening Date : (KW-3 only)	**07-12-2022 AT 11:00 AM**
6) Financial Bid Opening Date : (KW-3 only)	**09-12-2022 AT 11:00 AM**

General Works Indent Nos.: 97138, 97139, 97143, 97145, 97146, 97148, 97149, 97152, 97195, 97153, 97125, 97184, 97186, 97184, 97126, 97114, 97115, 97116, 97117, 97118, 97121, 97122, 97191, 97192, 97193, 97123, 97135, 97136, 97137, 90898, 90310, 97197, 97196, 97190

SC Works Indent No's : 97147, 97150, 97183, 97113, 97120, 97134, 97189, 97188

ST Works Indent No's : 97142, 97144, 97198

For further details, the agencies may contact the office of the undersigned, during office hours, or may visit website : www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**
P.R.E. Division, Chikodi
DIPO/BGM/1280/2022-23

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

INBRIEF

Muslim trader barred from temple festival in Kodagu

The Bajrang Dal and other right-wing activists barred a Muslim trader from transacting business during Shashti festival at Harihara Subramanyeshwara temple at Gonikoppa in Kodagu district, on Tuesday. A group of activists clad in saffron shawl went about scrutinising the identification cards of the traders and it transpired that a Muslim trader was carrying the ID of his friend. The activists barred him from continuing business, though the police said that no complaint has been filed.

DKS meets Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer on quota issue

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar met Nirmalanandanatha Swami of Adichunchanagiri Mutt on Wednesday and discussed the issue of Vokkaliga demand for hike in reservation. Vokkaliga community religious and political leaders from across the political spectrum had met at a convention on Sunday to demand an increase in the reservation in OBC reservation matrix. The meting on Wednesday was to take forward the discussion and further course of action, said a release.

HC upholds notification that gave 'immediate effect' to ban on PFI

While the Ministry of Home Affairs had issued notification on September 27 banning Popular Front of India and allied organisations, its implementation was effective from September 28

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday dismissed a petition questioning the action of the Union government in giving "immediate effect" to the ban on Popular Front of India (PFI) and other allied organisation soon after issuing notification declaring it as "unlawful association" for a period of five years.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing the petition filed Nasir Pasha, who was by PFI's State president, through his wife as he is presently lodged in prison under the judicial custody.

The petitioner had challenged only the notification by which the Central government had made the declaration of ban operational with immediate effect, by exercising its power under Section 3(3) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, as the validity of the ban notification has to be examined by the designated Tribunal.

Police outside the PFI office in Bengaluru on September 28. FILE PHOTO

While the Ministry of Home Affairs had issued notification on September 27 banning PFI and allied organisations, its implementation was effective from September 28, the day on which it was published in the official gazette. "I do not find any warrant that would entail interference at the hands of this court," Justice Nagaprasanna observed after considering the reasons assigned in the notification and the apex court's verdict in the case of banned organisation Islamic Research Foundation of Zakir Naik.

It was contended in the petition that no separate reasons were assigned to implement the ban with immediate effect without waiting for the outcome of the proceedings pending before the Tribunal.

Also, the petitioner contended that giving immediate effect to ban not only infringes the fundamental right to form associations and unions guaranteed under the Article 19(1)(c) but also gives arbitrary and unbridled power to the authorities to falsely implicate any person in the guise of having membership with the banned organisation and expose such persons to criminal action for associating with the organisation.

However, the court pointed out that the reasons for "giving immediate effect" to the ban very much exists in the notification and the fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c) is subject to reasonable restriction under Article 19 (4) when such right would harm the sovereignty, integrity, public order, or morality.

'Cow slaughter ban has resulted in massive job loss in leather industry'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Priyank Kharge

There are over 90 leather units in State and most of them are on the verge of closure, the Congress MLA has said

Priyank Kharge, Congress MLA, on Wednesday claimed that the ruling BJP government's ban on cow slaughter has badly hit the leather industry and rendered many jobless.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Kharge said Karnataka's export of leather goods had declined from ₹502 crore in 2019-20 to ₹160.84 crore in 2020-21 owing to the ban.

There are more than 90 leather units in the State and most of them have been on the verge of closure, hitting production and sales in the industry. More than 3.5 lakh workers, largely belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, would lose their jobs, he said.

No alternative jobs

The government implemented the Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, but did nothing to provide alternative jobs to workers involved in the industry, he claimed.

The MLA also opposed the Finance Department's order directing employees to contribute money from their salary for implementing the Punyakoti programme, a cow adoption scheme. Under the 'Punyakoti' scheme, there are over one lakh cows in various goshalas for adoption.

Instead of seeking funds from employees, the government should cut the salary of BJP legislators to take care of old cows, he suggested.

Mr. Kharge said that more than 20 lakh head of cattle had been infected with lumpy skin disease. The State's milk production had come down from 94 lakh litres to 90 lakh litres per day during the last few days. In the midst of all this, milk price has been increased, he said.

Bommai holds talks with Shekhawat on irrigation projects

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol in New Delhi on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

hief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday met Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in the national capital and held talks on irrigation projects in Karnataka, including the proposed Mekedatu project on the Cauvery Basin.

Mr. Bommai reportedly urged Mr. Shekhawat to direct the department concerned to provide environment and forest clearances for the Mekedatu project, which has been opposed by the Tamil Nadu government.

The release from the Chief Minister's Office said that Mr. Bommai discussed implementation of Upper Bhadra, third phase of the Upper Krishna Project, Kalasa-Banduri Nala projects, and sought early clearances from the Centre for taking up the projects.

He informed the Centre of the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a drinking water project. Water Resources Minister Govind M. Karjol, and senior officials of various departments accompanied the Chief Minister.

Mr. Bommai called on President Droupadi Murmu on a courtesy visit.

Karnataka Wakf Board to start 10 colleges for girl students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka State Board of Wakf plans to start 10 college for girl students in various districts in the State.

Three months ago, the Wakf Board took the decision to start separate colleges for girls for PU and degree courses and the board has reserved ₹2.5 crore fund per college.

Speaking to the media, Maulana Shafi Saadi, Chairman for Karnataka Wakf Board, said, "The government has given consent to the project." The new colleges will be opened in Dakshina Kannada, Shivamogga, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Raichur, Koppal, Kalaburagi, and other districts. The board has already found 16 acres of land in Dakshina Kannada district, he said. Speaking to *The Hindu*, a Muslim leader said: "Due to the hijab row, many Muslim girls had to skip school and college in recent months. Therefore, opening colleges is a good move."

Yathindra asks Siddaramaiah to contest from Varuna

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Mr. Yathindra said he would not contest the Assembly polls if the former CM chooses to enter the fray from Varuna

Amidst reports of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said to be hunting for a "safe seat" to contest the next 2023 elections, his son Yathindra, who represents Varuna Assembly segment in Mysuru, on Wednesday said he had personally requested his father to contest the next Assembly elections from Varuna.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Mr. Yathindra said Mr. Siddaramaiah has not yet finalised the constituency.

"I have asked him several times to contest from Varuna. He has not decided as he has been asked by leaders and workers of several other constituencies to contest from their constituencies. But, I am insisting that he contests from Varuna," he said. When asked about the constituency from where he would contest if Mr. Siddaramaiah returns to Varuna, Mr. Yathindra sought to make it clear that he will not contest the Assembly elections if the former Chief Minister chooses to enter the poll fray from Varuna.

"I will not contest from anywhere. If I go to any other constituency, there will already be aspirants for Congress ticket," he said.

When asked about Mr. Siddaramaiah's chances in Kolar, which is among the shortlisted constituencies for the former Chief Minister, Mr. Yathindra said there were several constituencies that are considered "safe" from caste combination and the party's organisational strength.

However, he said he was particular that Mr. Siddaramaiah should contest from Varuna as he has been saying that this would be his last election. Varuna constituency had proved "lucky" to him as he had contested the elections earlier when he was the Leader of the Opposition and went on to become the Chief Minister. "Even now, when he has a chance to become the Chief Minister, he should contest from Varuna. Along with me, party leaders and workers in the constituency also want him to contest from Varuna," he added.

TENDER CALL NOTICE

JOINT DIRECTOR, FROZEN SEMEN BANK, KHAPURIA, CUTTACK.
E-Mail - jdfsbctc@gmail.com; Tel. No. - 0671-2344532
EOI No. 2768 Date : 29.11.2022

In pursuance to EOI No. 2768 / Date: 29.11.2022, The Joint Director, Frozen Semen Bank, Cuttack invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the intending firms/ organizations / Agencies for supply of **Liquid Nitrogen for Frozen Semen Bank, Khapuria, Cuttack**.

The details of the Expression of Interest (Non-transferable) as well as terms and conditions and information docket are available on the DAH & VS, Odisha website: **www.dahvs.odisha.gov.in & http://Cuttack.nic.in** . Interested parties are requested to download the required documents and submit their response to the undersigned at the above mentioned address along with the cost of the EOI document of **Rs.5,900/-** in shape of Bank Draft drawn in favour of the Joint Director, Frozen Semen Bank, Cuttack.

The EOI documents must be deposited within date **21.12.2022 till 5 PM.**

Sd-
JOINT DIRECTOR , FROZEN SEMEN BANK, CUTTACK.

TENDER CALL NOTICE

JOINT DIRECTOR, FROZEN SEMEN BANK, KHAPURIA, CUTTACK.
E-Mail - jdfsbctc@gmail.com; Tel. No. - 0671-2344532
EOI No. 2769 Date : 29.11.2022

In pursuance to EOI No.2769 / Date : 29.11.2022, The Joint Director, Frozen Semen Bank, Cuttack invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the Semen Station having "A" Grade Certification in CMU evaluation for supply of **Frozen Semen Straw for Frozen Semen Bank, Khapuria, Cuttack**.

The details of the Expression of Interest (Non-transferable) as well as terms and conditions and information docket are available on the DAH & VS, Odisha website: **www.dahvs.odisha.gov.in & http://Cuttack.nic.in** .Interested "A" Grade Semen Station are requested to download the required documents and submit their response to the undersigned at the above mentioned address.

The EOI documents must be deposited within date **21.12.2022 till 5 PM.**

Sd-
JOINT DIRECTOR , FROZEN SEMEN BANK, CUTTACK.
M-59: I&PR-06080/11/0007/2223

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department, Udupi Division, Udupi. (PIU)

Website: https://www.kpwd.gov.in Email: eepwdudp02@gmail.com

No EE/PWD/UDN/NIT/56/2022-23/AE-2 Dated 29.11.2022

Tender Notice

The tender for the following works are invited through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (Viz. www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Last date for Submission of tender in Eprocurement	Eligible Tenderer
1	Improvement to backside road of Malasavari Mahakali Temple in Koravadi 5th Ward of Kumbhashi Gramapanchayath, Kundapura Constituency. **(159786)**	₹ 76,65,179.00	₹ 1,53,400.00	15.12.2022	CLASS-III and above K-PWD

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Udupi Division, Udupi.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari
Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-3/2022-23/4186 Dated : 29-11-2022

Short Term Tender Notification (Two Cover Sysytem)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through e-procurement portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site http://eproc. karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours. **TABLE**

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	KPWD/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT156032	75.50
2)	KPWD/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT157470	72.08

Note : Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in e_Procurement Portal.

1) Last dates for queries (through e-procurement portal **03-12-2022 upto 12.00 Hours.** 2) Last date for submission of tenders through e-procurement portal **08-12-2022 upto 16.00 Hours**. 3) Date and time of opening of Technical Bids **09-12-2022 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari**

DIPR/Ballari/668/MCA/2022-23 Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Mr.Karthik R, S/o Late N.Ravi, Aged about 31 Years, Mr.Kiran R, S/o Late N. Ravi, Aged about 25 Years, both residing at No. 1/1, 2nd Main Road, Tata Silk Farm, Basavangudi, Bangalore – 560004, are the absolute owners of the below mentioned schedule property and theyare in possession of the below mentioned schedule property. My clients inform me that they have lost the original Sale Deed dated 20/5/1961, registered as document No. 839 of 1961-62, in Book 1, before the Sub Registrar Bangalore executed by Smt. K.N.Sathyabhama in favor of Sri.Kannaiah Naidu. My clients have lodged a Police Complaint before the Commissioner of Police Bangalore. The Police has issued a Lost article report to my client bearing No. 0395655/2022 dated 25/11/2022. My clients instruct me to state no person can claim any right, title and interest over the schedule property with the custody of original Sale Deed dated 20/5/1961, registered as document No. 839 of 1961-62, in Book 1, before the Sub Registrar Bangalore executed by Smt. K.N.Sathyabhama in favor of Sri.Kannaiah Naidu. My client further instructs me to state that whoever finds the aforesaid original Sale Deed dated 20/5/1961, kindly hand over the same to the undersigned **within 7 days**, failing which my client would treat the said original Sale Deed dated 20/5/1961, registered as document No. 839 of 1961-62, in Book 1, before the Sub Registrar Bangalore executed by Smt. K.N.Sathyabhama in favor of Sri.Kannaiah Naidu has been untraced/lost.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of property bearing municipal katha No. 1, Old No. 26, PID No. 59-31-1, Situated at 2nd Main, Tata Silk Farm, K.R.Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore, in BBMP limits, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 50 Feet totally measuring 2000 Square feet, bounded on:

East by : Property bearing No. 19
West by : Remaining portion of property bearing No. 26
North by : IInd main Road,
South by : Property bearing No. 25

Smt. Sumana Kosigi Advocate,
No.186, 4th Main, Samrudhi Enclave, 2nd Stage, Kumarswamy layout
Bengaluru- 560 061.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.

E-tenders through e-procurement platform at **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** as per the instructions in the tender specifications Coal (Ship) - 116 Dated 24.11.2022 for time chartering of One Self - Trimming Panamax or Kamsarmax Gearless / Geared offered as Gearless Bulk Carrier for coastal movement of coal by TANGEDCO:

Sl. No.	Specification No.	Description of Work / Materials	Due date & Time for submission of e-tender
1	Coal (Ship) - 116 **Dt. 24.11.2022**	TIME CHARTERING OF ONE NO. SELF-TRIMMING PANAMAX OR KAMSARMAX GEARLESS / GEARED OFFERED AS GEARLESS Bulk Carrier WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 20TH DECEMBER 2022 to 05TH JANUARY 2023 FOR 9 MONTHS + 4 MONTHS CHOPTION + 3 MONTHS CHOPTION +/- 15 DAYS CHOPTION.	**08.12.2022** upto **14:30** hrs.

Submission of E-Tender: THROUGH THIS HYPERLINK **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** Date & Time of commencement of download of Tender Specifications Coal (Ship)-116 dt.24.11.2022 : 14:30 Hrs on 01.12.2022. Soft copy of Tender Specifications: The tender specifications can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website **www.tangedco.gov.in**, from Tamil Nadu Government Web site i.e. **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and from National Informatics Center website **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** free of cost. Tenders will be opened: Through the NIC portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.**

DIPR/5324/Tender/2022

CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL TANGEDCO / CHENNAI - 2.

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்".

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.

E-tenders through e-procurement platform at **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** as per the instructions in the tender specifications Coal (Ship) - 117 Dated 24.11.2022 for time chartering of One Self - Trimming Panamax or Kamsarmax Gearless / Geared offered as Gearless Bulk Carrier for coastal movement of coal by TANGEDCO:

Sl. No.	Specification No.	Description of Work / Materials	Due date & Time for submission of e-tender
1	Coal (Ship) - 117 **Dt. 24.11.2022**	TIME CHARTERING OF ONE NO. SELF-TRIMMING PANAMAX OR KAMSARMAX GEARLESS / GEARED OFFERED AS GEARLESS Bulk Carrier WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 25TH DECEMBER 2022 to 10TH JANUARY 2023 FOR 9 MONTHS + 4 MONTHS CHOPTION + 3 MONTHS CHOPTION +/- 15 DAYS CHOPTION.	**08.12.2022** upto **14:30** hrs.

Submission of E-Tender: THROUGH THIS HYPERLINK **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** Date & Time of commencement of download of Tender Specifications Coal (Ship)-117 dt.24.11.2022 : 14:30 Hrs on 01.12.2022. Soft copy of Tender Specifications: The tender specifications can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website **www.tangedco.gov.in**, from Tamil Nadu Government Web site i.e. **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and from National Informatics Center website **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** free of cost. Tenders will be opened: Through the NIC portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.**

DIPR/5323/Tender/2022

CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL TANGEDCO / CHENNAI - 2.

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்".

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

TENTH ANNIVERSARY
IN FOND MEMORY OF

02-01-1972 01-12-2012

V. MARAGATHAVALLI

AR. Viswanathan (Husband)
AR. Meenakshi (Mother in Law)
V. Meenakshi (Daughter)
AR. Umapathy
L. Vellayan
U. Umayal
V. Vijaya Vellayan
U. Arunachalam
V. Anush Lakshmanan
U. Ramaswamy
V. Kannathal

RELATIVES, FRIENDS and Employees of SREE VISALAM CHIT FUND LTD.

INBRIEF

8,380 birds culled in avian flu-hit areas at Alappuzha

Rapid Response Teams (RRT) of the Animal Husbandry department (AHD) in Kerala on Wednesday culled 8,380 birds at avian flu-hit Purakkad and Karuvatta in Alappuzha. "Combing operations will continue at Karuvatta", an official said. The entire bird stock at the farm at Karuvatta had died due to the disease before the outbreak was officially confirmed on Tuesday.

Kumaraswamy's statement on 'untouchability' triggers a row

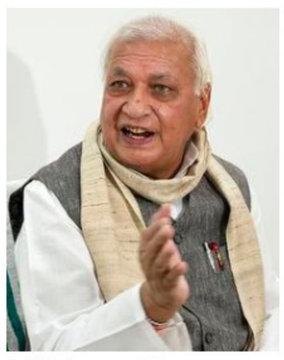
Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday reiterated that he did not defend or practice "untouchability", as his earlier statement made while talking about party president C.M. Ibrahim had turned controversial. In response to Mr. Ibrahim's statement that he too was a Chief Minister candidate, Mr. Kumaraswamy had asked: "Should a Muslim not become the Chief Minister? Is he an untouchable?" Following this, the Chalavadi Mahasabha had filed a complaint with the Doddaballapur town police. It has said that the usage of word was an insult to SCs and STs, and illegal under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Cabinet allows Bill to remove Governor as Chancellor

The Bill proposes replacing the Governor with eminent academics as Chancellors of various universities; the ruling LDF government has the numbers to pass the Bill in the Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday approved the draft Bill removing Governor Arif Mohammed Khan as Chancellor of the State universities after recurrent and politically charged run-ins with Raj Bhavan over matters relating to the administration of centres of higher learning.


Arif Mohammed Khan

Instead, the Bill proposes supplanting the Governor with eminent academicians as Chancellors of various universities. The Bill, if passed, will, at a stroke, negate the Governor's watchdog role in university administration and accord the government more leeway in appointing Chancellors of its choice.

The proposed legislation also aspires to amend the statutes of 14 universities. The Bill caps a season of taut political theatre following the Supreme Court's invalidation of the KTU Vice-Chancellor's appointment. Mr. Khan had sought the resignations of 11 other Vice-Chancellors on the ground that the government had appointed them through the same process deemed unlawful by the apex court.

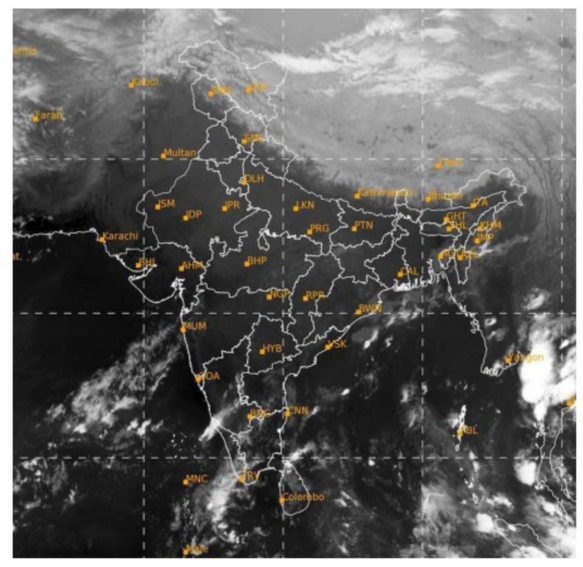
However, the government took a contrarian view and held it was legally anomalous to apply the Supreme Court ruling in an individual case broadly.

The Governor's "refusal" to promulgate an ordinance divesting him of the Chancellor's powers had compelled the government to request him to convene the Assembly to introduce the executive order as a Bill. The Left Democratic Front (LDF) has the numbers to pass the Bill in the Assembly. It also draws strength from moves by other non-Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States to introduce similar Bills curtailing the Governor's power as Chancellor.

However, it might be rough sailing for the ruling front in the Assembly. A bipartisan approval for the Bill appears distant with the Congress indicating it will oppose the "mal intentioned legislation" to bend State varsities to the CPI (M)'s will.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.6	22.8	Kozhikode	—	34.0	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	30.9	17.2	Kurnool	—	32.3	18.3
Aizawl	0.8	—	19.3	Lucknow	—	26.3	14.5
Allahabad	—	28.3	11.8	Madurai	—	31.4	23.0
Bengaluru	—	28.1	17.0	Mangaluru	—	31.8	23.4
Bhopal	—	27.4	12.8	Mumbai	—	33.0	22.0
Bhubaneswar	—	29.9	19.4	Mysuru	—	30.0	19.4
Chandigarh	—	26.0	9.9	New Delhi	—	25.2	9.0
Chennai	—	30.3	21.4	Patna	—	28.1	14.2
Coimbatore	—	29.0	21.4	Port Blair	—	31.1	25.2
Dehradun	—	25.6	10.5	Puducherry	—	31.2	19.3
Gangtok	—	17.7	9.3	Pune	—	29.2	15.4
Goa	—	33.5	23.9	Raipur	—	28.5	11.6
Guwahati	—	30.0	15.4	Ranchi	—	27.2	12.6
Hubballi	—	31.0	17.0	Shillong	—	22.1	12.5
Hyderabad	—	29.6	13.3	Shimla	—	17.9	7.5
Imphal	—	28.0	15.0	Srinagar	—	12.8	-1.6
Jaipur	—	26.7	11.5	Thiruvananthapuram	0.6	31.5	23.9
Kochi	10.0	29.8	24.6	Tiruchi	—	30.7	21.4
Kohima	—	21.4	—	Vijayawada	—	30.4	18.8
Kolkata	—	30.9	21.8	Visakhapatnam	—	32.6	22.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	14	72	32	52	85	
Bengaluru	7	6	74	277	143	
Chennai	14	81	49	271	149	
Delhi	24	103	74	423	412	
Hyderabad	17	14	49	152	144	
Kolkata	19	7	49	240	153	
Lucknow	10	82	104	328	247	
Mumbai	7	18	100	297	223	
Pune	—	—	71	—	—	
Visakhapatnam	27	70	38	217	215	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Siwan, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 460 indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Vikram Kirloskar: The man who brought Toyota to Karnataka

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Back in 1997, when Karnataka was not yet a big spot on the global business map, auto major Toyota set up its India manufacturing facility at Bidadi. Vikram Kirloskar, who passed away at 64 on Tuesday in Bengaluru following a cardiac arrest, was instrumental in bringing the Japanese automaker to Karnataka.

Vikram Kirloskar

The initial efforts towards Toyota Motor Corp to India were taken during Chief Minister Veerappa Moily's period in the early 1990s and was later followed up by his successor H.D. Deve Gowda. During J.H. Patel's tenure, Toyota Kirloskar officially started its operations in the State and thereafter S.M. Krishna and Industries Minister RV. Deshpande supported the venture.

The key person who worked from outside the government tirelessly on bringing this project was Mr. Kirloskar, who is a mechanical engineering graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani described him as a "pillar of the business of Karnataka" in his condolence message.

Mr. Kirloskar's family, who hailed from Haveri, had been running various businesses including automotive engineering, pumps, gensets, machine tools etc. in the last over 100 years. Mr. Kirloskar came to the mainstay of Karnataka Inc. with Toyota Kirloskar in 1997.

Since inception, Toyota has invested over ₹20,000 crore in Karnataka and Mr. Kirloskar's personal commitment in 2010 was ₹1,500 crore. "He has been a great help in organising Global Investors' Meet. He and Geetanjali [his wife] came with me for a road show in the U.S. prior to GIM in 2010,'' recalled the Mr. Nirani.

Mr. Kirloskar was extremely supportive of young people and their business ideas. Speaking at a trade body event that had several youngsters in the audience recently, he had said, "You are the future leaders. You should be soon sitting where I am sitting.''

Recalling her long association with him, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, executive chairperson of biopharmaceuticals Biocon, said, "Vikram was a gourmet, a wine aficionado, and a music lover. He was a man of great taste with an infectious joie de vivre."

She said, "Vikram balanced this with his impressive business acumen. He was hugely invested in the Confederation of Indian Industry having served as its president in 2020. His opinions counted in the corridors of policy makers and his understanding of the auto industry in India and globally was comprehensive."

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004
Phone: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No:MESCOM/SEE(P)/EE(W)/AEE(W)/2022-23/667 Date: 23.11.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Mode Only)

MFSCOM invites tenders for the following works pertaining to Puttur & Sagar O&M Divisions on Total turnkey Basis to be executed vide respective Bid Enquiry nurnbers;

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Bid Enquiry Nos.
1	Re-conductoring of old deteriorated Weasel ACSR Squirrel ACSR by Rabbit ACSR of LT circuits of various transformers in Nellyadi Section of Kadaba Sub-Division, Puttur Division.	MESCOM/ 2022-23/EL/ WORK_INDENT1871
2	Re-conductoring of LT lines of 10 Nos. of Distribution Transformers in Talaguppa Section of Jog Sub-Division, Sagar Division.	MESCOM/ 2022-23/EL/ WORK_INDENT1872

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **01.12.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.), Corporate Office Mangaluru

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-52.
Ph: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667 e-Mail: kerc-ka@nic.in
Website: www.kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No.: KERC/17/1008/CoS-RoE/DDD/22-23/1883 Date: 30.11.2022

NOTICE

Sub: Revised Draft Conditions of Supply of Electricity of Distribution Licensees in the State of Karnataka (COS) (Eleventh Amendment) 2022, and the revised Draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Recovery of Expenditure for Supply of Electricity) (Twelfth Amendment) Regulations, 2022.

The draft amendment to the clauses on the above subject was published in the Official Gazette of Karnataka on **24.11.2022** and the same is also made available on the KERC's website **www.kerc.karnataka.gov.in**

The interested persons may file their comments/views/ suggestions/objections if any, on the above draft amendments to the secretary, KERC on or before **8th December 2022.**

Sd/- Secretary, KERC

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:SEE//Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-76(5)/22-23/8390-91 Date: 30.11.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tender for the following work.

1) Bid Enquiry No:KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/ EE(O)/ AEE-2/22-23/EPR-31/CALL-2 Dt:18.10.2022 for the work of **"Reconditioning/Repair of EMCO make, Sl.No:HT-1420/ 11846, 20MVA Transformer-2 at 66/11kV A-Station"** in NRS Rajajinagar Division, BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru on total turnkey basis on Percentage tender basis.

The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/**on or after **02.12.2022** onwards.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.), Transmission (M), BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-09

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277816, Fax.No:08352-277817, E-Mail:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in

NO:EE/PRED/VJP/E-Proc/TND/2022-23/2201 Dated:29.11.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

Tender called for the work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below.

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-3 through electronic Tendering system (e-tender from Class -1 Contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD/PRED/ who have got adequate financial resources, state of technology, suitable construction equipments technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below.

1) Construction of 5 room for Govt HPS no 51 at Butanal Tanda in Vijayapura Taluka RS 82.00 lakhs (KW-3)

Details in this regard are available on website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the above office during office hours

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/623/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/TZH/SE(E)/EE(C)/37/2022-23/19329-32 Dt: 29.11.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL ivities short-term tender through e-Procurement mode tender from registered KPWD Civil Contractors having EPF registration and fulfilling the all other requirements as in NIT (of e-Procurement), for the executive of Construction of KPTCL Guest house at 220kV station premises Kemar, Karkala Taluk, Udupi District work indent No.: **KPTCL/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT10042,** Interested tenderes directly can access the tendering website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** hyperlink **"e-Procurement"** from **01.12.2022 on wards** for detailed NIT and to participate in the tenders through e-Procurement. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy.,Transmission Zone, KPTCL,3rd Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573201. Ph: 08172-231051

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, Fax No. 080-22133365
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Tender Notification No. 30/2022-23
Dated- 29.11.2022

Item-rate tenders, for the work in No.1 South, No.2 North, Anekal, Devanahalli, Hosakote, Nelamangala and Doddaballapura Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per e-procurement procedure.Tender Notification are Published for 26 works **(Rs. 6.00 to 490.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in E-procurement portal. Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

Sl No 1 to 3 : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **Dated: 30.11.2022 onwards. (2)**Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16:00 hours on dated **17.12.2022. (3)** The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated **19.12.2022 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time will be Intimate.

Sl No 4 to 26: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **Dated: 30.11.2022 onwards**. **(2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16:00 hours on dated **12.12.2022**. **(3)** The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated **13.12.2022 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time will be Intimate.

For more details can be had from e-procurement portal **(http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/3305/Zenkar/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, Fax No. 080-22133365
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Tender Notification No. 29/2022-23
Dated- 28.11.2022

Item-rate tenders, for the work in No.1 South Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per e-procurement procedure.Tender Notification are Published for 06 works **(Rs. 8.50 to 150.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in E-procurement portal.** Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

Sl No 1 : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from Dated: **29.11.2022** onwards. **(2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16:00 hours on dated **06.12.2022. (3)** The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated **07.12.2022 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time will be Intimate.

Sl No 2 to 6 : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from Dated: **30.11.2022** onwards. **(2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16:00 hours on dated **08.12.2022. (3)** The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated **09.12.2022 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time will be Intimate.

For more details can be had from e-procurement portal **(http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/3291/Zenkar/2022-23

ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಸಂ:ಬಿ1/ಬಿಯುಡಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಐಆರ್–10/2022–23 ದಿ: 28.11.2022

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮೈಸೂರು ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿವಿಧ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಮುಳ್ಳು ತಂತಿ ಬೇಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು**http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. 2) ಒಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–02 3) ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ.ಕೋಟೆ ವಲಯ ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಗುಡ್ಡ ಸುತ್ತಲು ಕರಿಗಾಲ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್–4 ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಳ್ಳು ತಂತಿ ಬೇಲಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.**69.00**ಲಕ್ಷ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1.725 ಲಕ್ಷ 4) ಟಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ವಲಯ ಒಡ್ಡಲ್ ರಂಗನಾಥಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಗುಡ್ಡ ಸುತ್ತಲು ಕಳ್ಳೀಪುರ ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್–4 ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಳ್ಳು ತಂತಿ ಬೇಲಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.38.33 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.0.9585 ಲಕ್ಷ 5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ ಕೇಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: **08.12.2022 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.** 6) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: **08.12.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ.** 7) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: **09.12.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ.** 8) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: **12.12.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆ. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಾರದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು** 9) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ **ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0821–2483853 ನ್ನು** ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. 10) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚಾರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/717/2022-23

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION, DHARWAD.

SECTION 1: INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (One & Two Cover System), KW-1,2,3&4/KC-5

Reg : This office tender Notification No. **32/2022-23** Dated:**24/11/2022**

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division, Dharwad, invites tenders for total of **26** Works for **Hangal Sub Divisions**, comes under this undersigned office in Standard Bid Document **KW-1,2,3&4/KC-5** through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz., **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible contractors for the work under Head of Account: **4702-MOT (Total of 07 works); 4702-APB (Total of 09 work); 4702-APB (Total of 02 Consultancy work); 4711-Flood (Total of 02 work); 4702-SCP (Total of 04 work); 4702-TSP (Total of 02 work);** Maximum Estimate Amount: Rs.**300.00** Lakhs, Maximum E.M.D amount Rs.**6.00;** Lakhs and Minimum Estimate Amount: Rs.**1.36;** Minimum E.M.D amount Rs.**3000.00** Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal is from **30/11/2022 to 15/12/2022** upto17:30hrs. And any other Corrigendum/Addendum and Postponement of Notification, Changes in the dates, if any will be published only through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website **@http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** are final.

The work tender invited by this office "Constructon of Bandhara across Local nala near Tarihal village in Hubli tq Dharwad Dist" (Indent No:34263) has been cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER M.I & G.W.D. DIVISION, DHARWAD

DIPR/DWD/784/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

Unseemly conflict

Government's diatribe does not resolve conflict over judicial appointments

The Union government appears determined to turn its conflict with the judiciary over judicial appointments into something unseemly. The sources of friction are two-fold. One is the daily diatribe by Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, who appears to have been given an assignment to target the Collegium system with trenchant criticism of its known, but uncorrected flaws, and top it with unwarranted remarks such as asking the Court not to send any files, if it felt it was sitting on them. The second is the Government's strategy of delaying appointments recommended by the Collegium as a counterblast to its loss of primacy in the matter. A Supreme Court Bench, hearing a contempt petition against the Government for not approving names reiterated by the Collegium, has wondered whether the Government is not acting on the files because the Court did not permit the implementation of the National Judicial Appointments Commission. There will be many takers for Mr. Rijiju's central point that the collegium system is opaque. However, his adverse comments fail to hide the perception that the aim may be to delegitimise the Court. The Government is also violating the prevailing legal position that a recommendation reiterated by the Collegium, after due consideration of its objections, is binding on it.

It is not difficult to bring relations between the judiciary and the executive back on track, if only the two sides are willing to address each other's concerns. The Court has a valid point when it says the uncertainty over the fate of a recommendation for appointment is resulting in eminent lawyers withdrawing their consent or declining invitations to join the Bench. There are instances of the Government ignoring even two or three reiterations, and of the absence of any communication of objections or reservations, if any, that the Government may have about particular candidates. If the current trend continues, it is not difficult to conceive of a situation in which a major verdict that may go against the Government is portrayed by the political leadership as stemming from the hostility of the judiciary and not one on merits. One way of stopping further deterioration is for the Government to clear pending recommendations with due despatch. Another way is for the judiciary to begin or agree to a process of reforms in the way the Collegium functions, especially with regard to expanding the range of consultation and widen the zone of consideration so that the superior judiciary, and those it consults, are more diverse and representative of all sections. It is also not beyond the realm of possibility for the Government to bring about a new constitutional mechanism to make appointments without undermining judicial authority.

Cease and desist

The BBMP had no business outsourcing electoral work to an NGO

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's decision to cancel permission provided to an NGO, Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust, to conduct a house-to-house survey to enhance voter awareness, was a belated but necessary one. BBMP, the Bengaluru civic body, has claimed that the NGO had violated the conditions, which did not allow the collection of voter identification details. It is alleged that the NGO utilised BBMP identification cards to secure voter data through a door-to-door survey and stored the data in an app created for that purpose. The NGO's brazenness, whereby voters were deceived into believing that the collectors were with the BBMP, suggests the incompetence and the callousness of the municipal corporation of one of India's largest cities. The data collected, such as Aadhaar, phone number and voter ID, could be easily harvested for use by parties besides constructing the meta data and profiles of potential voters. Such data are especially coveted by political parties that thrive on exclusionary politics as it allows them to target specific communities and localities with diverse demographics. If the BBMP's purpose was to simply enhance voter awareness, there was no express need to outsource this to a non-governmental third party. The corporation must ensure that any data stored are immediately deleted and legal actions taken against the NGO.

The continued absence of a data protection law in India, and the fact that the Government's most recent draft Bill is light on protection from the misuse of data by the state, have added to the graveness of the situation. Recently, there have been several reports of block level officers of the Election Commission of India (ECI) asking individuals to link their Aadhaar with their voter IDs, and that a failure to do so could lead to their voter IDs being cancelled. Such mandatory linking would be incorrect as it has been legally established that Indian voters can use any of the prescribed identity documents to establish their eligibility to vote. While the use of Aadhaar numbers to ascertain proof of residence makes it easier for ECI officials to verify electoral rolls and to avoid duplication of the voter id, there is also the threat of disenfranchisement of genuine voters as Aadhaar biometric authentication has been known to be less than fool proof. The ECI is better off in doing door-to-door verification and in reminding voters to check and update their voter id by accessing the websites of its respective electoral officers. Instead, the search for easy technological fixes or outsourcing is sure to result in a failure to prevent the misuse of personal information.

Party Congress over, understanding the China puzzle

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

In recent weeks, world leaders have put out dire warnings on the import of certain events. The 20th Party Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), that was held in October 2022, is among the more prominent of these events. Depending on individual predilections, countries in the region have been stating their own views on current developments. Meanwhile, the jury is still out on what is to be expected.

References to the unpredictable nature of the global situation, and that in the Indo-Pacific in particular, are not new. What is possibly adding grist to this are certain recent assertions by Chinese President Xi Jinping following the Party Congress. His démarche to his Generals, made in the Joint Operations Command Centre of the Central Military Commission, "to enhance troop training and combat preparedness" has attracted much attention. Mr. Xi also warned of "dangerous storms ahead" and about external 'interference' in Taiwan. All this seemed to convince the West that China is preparing to go to war over Taiwan. Meanwhile, Japan is understood to have already decided to double its defence budget to 2% of its GDP.

Statements by western leaders, including the Joint Declaration following the recent G-20 Summit in Indonesia, have not helped to douse fears about an imminent conflict. Elliptical statements, *viz.*, that "it was essential to uphold international law and the multilateral system, as today's era must not be of war" have only increased such concerns. Likewise, a stalemate in the recent Biden-Xi talks, have added to existing concerns, with Mr. Xi reiterating that Taiwan "was the first red line" that must not be crossed, and Mr. Biden telling Mr. Xi that the U.S. would enhance its security position in Asia.

Clues after a careful reading

Hence, it has become important to read the tea leaves correctly. Worth considering again is whether the 20th Party Congress deliberations provide some clues to China's current thought processes and, more importantly, whether China is indeed preparing for a major conflict aiming at world conquest.

A careful reading of the Congress confirms only that under Mr. Xi, it is ideology that drives policy most of the time. Also, that it reinforces Mr. Xi's Marxist inspired belief that 'history is irreversibly on China's side'. Mr. Xi's view on 'historical materialism' again, is indicative of the general thrust of his thought processes. By itself it does not connote that Mr. Xi is preparing for war or readying himself for a major conflict.

China has indeed become more doctrinaire. The Party Congress confirms this. A shift to Marxist orthodoxy in the political realm, but perhaps less so in the area of economic policy, does mark a retreat from the Deng era of 'caution and risk aversion'. References made to changes in the 'international balance of forces' and that China has entered the 'leading ranks of the world' must be read against this backdrop.

> It appears, red lines apart, that the priority for Xi Jinping and the CCP is not to embark on new conflicts but on how best to protect the ideological purity and integrity of the Party

Mr. Xi's deepest political convictions, as evident from the discussions at the Congress, appear to be on preventing the ideological decay of the CCP and avoiding the kind of situation that led to the collapse of Soviet Communism. Safeguarding the Party from pernicious ideas creeping into the system and ensuring that the West did not succeed in fomenting 'ideological divisions within China' appear to be the prime concern. The objective, it would seem, is to turn the CCP into the 'highest church of a revitalised secular faith' and the main citadel of Chinese Communist Orthodoxy. If this reading is correct, then the priority for Mr. Xi and the CCP at present is not embarking on new conflicts but on protecting the ideological purity and integrity of the Party. This notwithstanding, China has certain clear red lines which cannot be breached; and if this were to happen, it would lead to a major conflict.

There is, moreover, no hard evidence that China is about to embark on a series of steps towards what it perceives as a 'more just' world. Though asserting that China today is much more powerful than it ever was, there is nowhere any clear evidence that China is about to use this power to change the course of history. On the other hand, it could be surmised that under the cloak of 'evaluating international circumstances through the prism of dialectical analysis', China may want to assess the situation and the circumstances before embarking on a conflict, including against strategic entities such as the Quad and AUKUS, both of which are seen to be intrinsically hostile to China's growing role and authority across the Pacific region.

All this only points to the need for a better understanding of China's real intentions. This is a need to avoid past mistakes, such as those in the 1950s – when the West seems to have overestimated China's capabilities, as also those made by India in the late 1950s, when it failed to correctly read China and Chinese intentions. No two situations are identical, however, and while the West might still exult at the success it achieved in bringing down the Soviet Union at the end of the 20th century, there are many other aspects today.

And several refinements may be needed to apply this to present conditions. Also, a belief that military and economic strengths automatically translate into a conflict matrix, may need more refinements.

What it means for India

All this has a great deal of relevance for India and its policymakers. Neither the deliberations in the Party Congress nor any of the post-Congress fulminations by China's leaders, appear directed at India. Repeated charges by western sources about China's designs on countries in the Indo-Pacific, hence, should not provoke India into taking any rash steps, as both situations and events tend to change rapidly. For instance, after a constant barrage of charges against China of having aggressive designs on Taiwan, the latest turn of events is that Mr. Biden has implied that the situation has not changed for the worse, and that there is no 'new Cold War in the offing', involving the U.S. and China. Subsequently, the U.S. Defence Secretary and his Chinese counterpart have held meetings in Cambodia. The media readout of the talks has been that they were 'productive and professional' and 'that competition does not lead to conflict'.

For India, border incursions are, no doubt, a continuing cause for concern. Undoubtedly, the incursions are not random, and tend to rise and fall, but, *ipso facto*, they should not be mistaken as precursors to war. The situation at present does not merit the view that India is about to face a wider conflict in the Himalayas. A careful study of the border hotspots indicates that China's concerns are largely regarding Aksai Chin; its importance, in China's eyes, lies in its proximity to China's Tibet and Xinjiang.

This does not mean that relations between China and India will remain smooth, as their conflict is more civilisational than territorial in nature. India's growing closeness to the U.S. and the West certainly irks China, and as is evident from the Party Congress deliberations, China sees the U.S.-led West as its principal antagonist. Hence, China's excessive concerns about strategic entities such as the Quad, as also about other common approaches that give an impression of closer strategic alignment between India and the U.S. or India and the West. These will be perceived as indicative of hostile intentions towards China. The recent flurry of statements between Indian and western leaders on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Cambodia, the ASEAN Heads of States meeting also in Cambodia, and the G-20 Summit in Indonesia, can, for instance, be expected to add grist to China's suspicion of a strengthening of the coalition of forces ranged against it. Notwithstanding its claims about being stronger than ever before, China thus continues to nurse serious concerns about its strategic vulnerabilities.

An Indian recipe to quell micronutrient malnutrition

Sirimavo Nair

is a Senior Professor in the Department of Foods and Nutrition, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat

When it comes to nutrition, or more specifically micronutrient malnutrition, there is an urgent need to address the maladies that poor nutrition can inflict on the masses, especially given the diverse populations in India.

Malnutrition exacerbates the magnitude of the public health crises we face, and is India's most serious challenge and concern. As in National Family Health Survey-5 data, every second Indian woman is anaemic, every third child is stunted and malnourished, and every fifth child is wasted. According to an FAO Food Security Report for 2021, India ranks 101 out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2021, with a 15.3% undernourished population, the highest proportion of stunted children (30%), and wasted children (17.3%).

The picture the Global Nutrition Report 2021 paints is cause for concern, noting that stunting among children in India is significantly higher than the Asian average of 21.8%.

Since the 1920s, developed countries and high-income countries have successfully tackled the issue of malnutrition through food fortification. Of late, the low-and middle-income countries, such as India, have pursued food fortification as one of the strategies to tackle micronutrient malnutrition. Put simply, food fortification is the process of adding nutrients to food. For instance, rice and wheat are fortified with iron, folic acid and vitamin B_{12}, and salt fortified with iron and iodine. Iodised salt has been in use for the past few decades.

The rice programme and anaemia

Pilot projects on the distribution of fortified rice have been taken up in select States, including Maharashtra (Gadchiroli district) as part of a targeted Public Distribution programme for the masses. The programme has been a success in terms of preventing cases of anaemia – from 58.9% to 29.5% – within a span of two years, prompting the central government to declare the scaling up of the distribution of fortified rice, the major staple diet of 65% of the population, through the existing platform of social safety nets such as the PDS, ICDS and PM-POSHAN.

> Food fortification is a proven cost-effective and complementary strategy to address India's malnutrition burden

Experiences from the different States on the fortified rice project, so far tally with the results of global programmes that use fortified food as a cost-effective strategy. The health benefits accruing from food fortification have made 80 countries to frame laws for the fortification of cereal flour, and 130 countries with iodised salt, where 13 countries have mandated rice fortification. The encouraging results of the pilot programme in Gadchiroli have prompted the proposed large-scale food fortification programme, which includes fortified rice in all all safety net government schemes. The study found a promising reduction (29.5%) in the prevalence of anaemia among women, adolescent girls, and children put together in Gadchiroli district.

Noon meal scheme in Gujarat

In Gujarat, an eight-month long study on multiple micronutrient fortified rice intervention for schoolchildren (six-12 years) in 2018-2019, as part of the Midday Meal Scheme, found increased haemoglobin concentration, 10% reduction in anaemia prevalence, and, more importantly, improved average cognitive scores (by 11.3%).

Iron deficiency anaemia is a major public health concern, because it is responsible for 3.6% of disability-adjusted life years or DALYs (years of life lost due to premature mortality and years lived with disability) according to the World Health Organization (WHO) – i.e., a loss of 47 million DALYs, or years of healthy life lost due to illness, disability, or premature death (2016).

According to NITI Aayog (based on WHO meta-analysis on the impact of rice fortification), a rice fortification budget of around ₹2,800 crore per year can save 35% of the total or 16.6 million DALYs per year with no known risk of toxicity. In India, the cost of one DALY lost due to iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) is approximately ₹30,000, while the cost of averting an IDA-related DALY is only ₹1,545, resulting in a cost-benefit ratio of 1:18. Rice fortification, which costs less than 1% of the food subsidy bill (2018-19), has the potential to prevent 94.1 million anaemia cases, saving ₹8,098 crore over a five-year period.

Need for precautions

Despite the programme's proven efficacy, activists have expressed concern that excess iron overload from fortified rice has been dangerous for Jharkhand's tribal population suffering from sickle cell anaemia and thalassaemia. Iron levels in fortified rice range from 28 mg to 42.5 mg, folic acid levels from 75 mcg-125 mcg, and vitamin B_{12} levels from 0.75 mcg to 1.2 mcg (FSSAI standards). Considering the per capita intake, in a family of three members with a rice consumption of approximately 60 grams per person, the additional intake is 2.45 mg of iron. This in fact compensates our daily losses of iron from the body, which is 1 mg-2 mg per day.

Food fortification, according to stalwarts of nutrition, is a cost-effective complementary strategy to address multiple micronutrient deficiencies. Thus, given its proven efficacy and cost-effectiveness, food fortification can help us in reducing micronutrient deficiencies and address overall health benefits. The intervention, carried out with precautions, is the key to the malnutrition issue which the nation continues to grapple with.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A growing divide

The main issue is a growing trust deficit between the Supreme Court of India and the Government. It is futile to expect any improvement in the situation and the Government appears to be dragging its feet in finding an amicable solution to the 'tussle'. It is incumbent on the Government to be flexible as this is also an issue that concerns litigants who are being harassed by long delays in the disposal of court cases and in getting timely (and affordable) justice.

V. Padmanabhan,
Bengaluru

The communication gap between the central government and the top court of the land only seems to be widening by the day. The victims are the general public who face ever-increasing pendency. The most vulnerable are the poorer sections. It is time the central government and Supreme Court sit together to discuss reducing the huge pendency in all courts. Washing dirty linen in public is neither desirable nor a substitute for justice. The fallout is diminishing credibility.

M.V. Nagavender Rao,
Hyderabad

The day is not far where unless courts function 24X7, with more judges and working in shifts as doctors do in hospitals, case arrears will snowball with each passing day. Special courts need to be constituted for each type of case. As the last bastions of hope, courts should be well-equipped with good Bench strength.

K. Pradeep,
Chennai

Cyber attack on AIIMS

The alleged cyberattack/ransomware attack on the servers of India's premier medical institute, AIIMS, is alarming. That vital data has been targeted is a case of national importance. In today's era where much is being done online, data has become a new asset, running companies, States and nations. Is it so difficult to have top-class cybersecurity?

Ramesh G. Jethwani,
Bengaluru

Allegation of 'lapses'

The allegation levelled by the BJP Tamil Nadu president that there were 'security lapses' during the Prime Minister's visit to Chennai to inaugurate the Chess Olympiad in July is strange. One is nonplussed why the leader has done so after months have lapsed. Is he also finding some issue or the other just to blame the DMK?

Mani Natarajan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Towards a robust triumvirate

Navin Chawla

is former Chief Election Commissioner and author of 'Every Vote Counts: The Story of India's Elections'

A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court is examining a bunch of petitions recommending reforms in the process of appointment of members of the Election Commission. Their hearings have come not a moment too soon. It is hoped that the Bench will also examine electoral reforms suggested to governments by successive Election Commissions over the last two decades or so.

A list of over 20 reform proposals was compiled in 2004. More proposals were added to the list over time and are pending with government. These range from strengthening the Commission's inherent structure to handling the misuse of muscle and money power during elections, which violate the Model Code of Conduct.

The matter of appointments

This article deals with two issues. The first, under consideration, is whether Election Commissioners should be selected by the executive or by a collegium. The idea of a collegium is not new. The Dinesh Goswami Committee in 1990 suggested that the Chief Election Commissioner be appointed by the President (read: executive) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition (and in case the Leader of the Opposition was not available, then consultation be held with the leader the largest opposition group in the Lok Sabha). It said this process should have statutory backing. Importantly, it applied the same criteria to the appointments of Election Commissioners, along with consultation with the Chief Election Commissioner.

The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, under Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, said that the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners should be appointed on the recommendation of a body comprising the Prime Minister, the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

The 255th Report of the Law Commission, chaired by Justice A.P. Shah, said the appointment of all the Election Commissioners should be made by the President in consultation with a three-member collegium consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition of the Lok Sabha (or the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha), and the Chief Justice of India. It also suggested measures to safeguard Election Commissioners from arbitrary removal, in a manner similar to what is accorded to the Chief Election Commissioner, who can only be removed by impeachment, which is by no means easy.

None of these recommendations gained traction in the governments to whom they were submitted.

Providing security

The second issue is to afford the same security from arbitrary removal to Election Commissioners that the Constitution affords to the Chief Election Commissioner. The Supreme Court lost an opportunity for reform in its judgment in the Seshan case. It conferred equal powers on the Election Commissioners as those enjoyed by the Chief Election Commissioner (referring to the Chief Election Commissioner as *primus inter pares*, or first among equals) and even offered majority power, whereby any two can overrule even the Chief Election Commissioner. Yet, it did not afford the Election Commissioners the same constitutional protection (of removal by impeachment) as is accorded to the Chief Election Commissioner. It is hoped that the present Bench will examine this.

I was in the Commission from 2005 to 2010 – as Election Commissioner for four years and as Chief Election Commissioner for 15 months – and oversaw the 2009 general election. It was only when I was appointed Chief Election Commissioner and enjoyed the full protection that the Constitution afforded to me that I addressed the Prime Minister of the time, recommending that the Election Commissioners be offered the same protection from arbitrary removal as enjoyed by the Chief from the day of appointment. Without this, they may hesitate to act independently, which they otherwise might if they were truly secure. In the absence of full constitutional security, an Election Commissioner could feel they must keep on the right side of the Chief Election Commissioner. They might also feel they should remain within the ambit favoured by the government. With such misgivings, an Election Commissioner can never be sure whether they will automatically be elevated to the top post because nowhere has elevation been statutorily decreed. I have known cases of Election Commissioners having to wait nervously till the last minute, uncertain of the announcement of their elevation to the top post. This is why the recommendations made by previous Commissions, if accepted, would go a long way in strengthening the independence of the Election Commission.

While the Chief Election Commissioner should be appointed by a collegium, this must apply equally to the Election Commissioners. The collegium should be wide based. Strengthened now by a broad-based selection by the top constitutional luminaries of the country, the Election Commission must now equally be protected from arbitrary removal by a constitutional amendment that would ensure a removal process that currently applies only to the Chief Election Commissioner. Without this, the Election Commission of India will not be a robust triumvirate.

Accepting reforms mooted by previous panels will strengthen the Election Commission's independence

The case for welfare schemes

A.P.'s welfare credentials did not diminish its investment appeal, but enhanced it

STATE OF PLAY

P. Krishna Mohan Reddy

When Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, introduced Arogyasri, a health insurance scheme, in 2007, many called it an effort to make private hospitals richer. In 2008, when he introduced the fee reimbursement scheme to fund professional education for students from low-income backgrounds, there was similar criticism. The results of both schemes proved the critics wrong. While Arogyasri saved lives and rescued innumerable families from financial distress, the fee reimbursement scheme made professional education accessible to students who otherwise could not afford it.

The Reserve Bank of India's report, State Finances: A Risk Analysis, has led to a debate on welfare measures. One of the arguments is that schemes addressing basic amenities are 'merit goods' and those such as loan waivers are 'non-merit goods'. The history of welfare schemes shows that nearly every good was dismissed as non-merit when it was proposed for the first time. When Indira Gandhi, as Prime Minister, expedited land reforms in 1969, many argued that hard-earned land must not be taken away for free. However, land distribution gave many landless families a sustainable livelihood and improved food production. Bank nationalisation, too, caused an uproar. But it made banking services accessible to the rural poor, farmers, and helped the expansion of small and medium-scale industries.

Many also argue that public funds are squandered away

for welfare schemes. On the contrary, most welfare schemes have been introduced to improve standards of living. When M.G. Ramachandran, as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, upgraded the mid-day meal scheme in 1982, many opposed it. This scheme has now become an essential component of school education in several States.

It is the same case with A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's Navaratnalu (nine welfare and development schemes). Between May 2019 and September 2022, the A.P. government directly transferred ₹1.77 lakh crore to the beneficiaries of Navaratnalu. During the COVID-19 years, this assistance became the lifeline for most families. The purpose of Navaratnalu is to support families in areas such as education, healthcare, agriculture, pensions, and subsistence support. Under the Amma Vodi scheme, more than 83 lakh children receive an annual grant of ₹15,000 each for their schooling till Class 12. Today, no child in the State needs to drop out of school due to poverty and gender discrimination. Besides Amma Vodi, six other schemes fund education at the school and collegiate levels. These have several socio-economic benefits. Women are the prime beneficiaries of most of the schemes. This women-centric approach has increased the decision-making capacity of women in many families. It is due to this multifaceted effort that A.P. continues to top several human development index parameters.

The A.P. government introduced Navaratnalu to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, proposed by the UN, with a voluntary deadline of 2030. Without active and immediate interventions from governments, these goals are impossible to achieve. The needs of the poor are in no way inferior to those of others, and governments should not ask the poor to wait until development trickles down.

In this context, another argument needs to be examined: Should the funds spent on welfare schemes be instead used for infrastructure development and industrialisation? Due to its welfare spending, A.P. is being projected as a State encouraging a freebie culture. However, expenditure on welfare should be considered a long-term investment in human capital. The government strikes a balance between growth and social spending and works on both of them simultaneously. Despite its disadvantageous condition after State bifurcation and the pandemic, A.P. recorded the highest GSDP growth in India in 2021-22. It has become the top investment destination and ranks first in the Ease of Doing Business list. The emphasis on skilling, the provision of 75% local reservation in private jobs, the continuous support to MSME units, and an honest approach towards businesses have transformed the State into an investment hub. Data show that the State's welfare credentials did not diminish its investment appeal, but enhanced it.

P. Krishna Mohan Reddy is officer on special duty to the A.P. Chief Minister

Layoffs by IT firms in the U.S. will greatly impact H-1B workers

Indians are most worried as the waiting time to get an appointment in U.S. embassies back home is over a year

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese

In 2020, the number of people employed by Meta was about 58,000. Despite two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the employee count increased to 87,000 in 2022. Tech giants Amazon, Microsoft and Apple also recorded a similar increase. The idea was to cash in on the increased online presence of Internet users due to COVID-19-related movement restrictions by widening operations.

However, as the intensity of the pandemic declined, the time spent online also reduced. Dependence on online platforms especially reduced for activities such as shopping and studying. Also, over 95% of people were already using social media and messaging platforms, according to GWI, an audience research company, so the potential for growth for companies was minimal. As the expectation that online usage will continue to grow did not materialise, the net incomes of tech companies fell resulting in layoffs. Meta co-founder Mark Zuckerberg acknowledged this failure when he said that he had predicted, like many others, that the surge of e-commerce at the start of COVID-19 would continue after the pandemic ended. "Unfortunately, this did not play out the way I expected," he said.

Indian workers who have been laid-off have a big worry. If they are unable to find a new employer within 60 days, they are faced with the prospect of leaving the U.S. and re-entering later. But the average waiting time for an interview appointment at the U.S. Embassy in cities in India is over a year (as on November 29). This is a problem that only Indian workers face, as the waiting time in other countries is less by at least 100 days; in a majority of them, it is less than 15 days. To make matters worse, the prospects of these Indian workers back home are also weak. Most Indian IT companies have frozen or slowed down hiring, as recessionary fears in the U.S. and high inflation in Europe have kept demand low.

Chart 1 shows the average time spent each day on the Internet by users aged between 16 and 64 worldwide, according to GWI. The time spent spiked during the pandemic and declined as movement restrictions eased.

Table 2 shows the share of Internet users who visited or used a digital service in the preceding 30-day period. While the share who visited banking, messaging and social media sites remained mostly the same, the share of those who used educational and commercial sites declined.

Table 3 shows the net income in $ million for select U.S. technology companies. After recording significant increases during the pandemic peaks, which gave hope to them to deepen investments, the companies saw poor returns in the last three quarters and were forced to lay-off employees.

Table 4 shows the employee headcount. The staff strength surged in the pandemic period. But according to recent news reports, Meta has fired more than 11,000 employees, Amazon is planning to lay off over 10,000 workers, Microsoft is expected to send home about 1,000 workers, and Apple is not hiring for now. A fair share of the affected employees are Indians as they form a lion's share of the H-1B hirings.

Chart 5 shows the estimated wait time to receive an interview appointment at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate for temporary workers with visa types H, L, O, P and Q, as on November 29. Five Indian cities stand out with a wait time close to a year.

Table 6 shows the year-on-year change in employee count for select IT firms in India. The numbers have fallen drastically in the latest quarter.

With inputs from Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Between a rock and a hard place

Decreased Internet usage after the pandemic along with recession fears and inflation have led to a hiring freeze and layoffs in large tech companies. The data are sourced from GWI, Travel.State.Gov and the annual/quarterly reports of companies

Chart 1: The chart shows the average time spent each day on the Internet by users aged between 16 and 64 worldwide

Table 2: The table shows the share of Internet users who used a digital service in the preceding 30 days

	2021		2022		
Website type	July	Oct.	Apr.	July	Oct.
Banking	28.8	28.5	28.9	29	28.5
Messaging	95.2	95.5	95.7	95.5	95.2
Social media	95.7	95.8	95.2	95.2	94.9
Search	84.1	83.4	82.4	82.6	82.2
Shopping	59.7	58.2	57.1	56.1	55.8
Education	27.3	26.6	26.6	25.6	24.7

Table 3: The table shows the net income in $ million for select U.S. technology companies

Quarters	Meta	Amazon	Microsoft	Apple
Q3 2022	4,395	2,872	17,556	20,721
Q2 2022	6,687	2,028	16,740	19,442
Q1 2022	7,465	3,844	16,728	25,010
Q4 2021	10,285	14,323	18,765	34,630
Q3 2021	9,194	3,156	20,505	20,551
Q2 2021	10,394	7,778	16,458	21,744
Q1 2021	9,497	8,107	15,457	23,630
Q4 2020	11,219	7,222	15,463	28,755
Q3 2020	7,846	6,331	13,893	12,673

Table continued...

Quarters	Meta	Amazon	Microsoft	Apple
Q2 2020	5,178	5,243	11,202	11,253
Q1 2020	4,902	2,535	10,752	11,249
Q4 2019	7,349	3,268	11,649	22,236
Q3 2019	6,091	2,134	10,678	13,686

Table 4: The table shows employee headcount of select U.S. technology companies

* till 3rd quarter

Year	Meta	Amazon	Microsoft	Apple
2022	87,000	1,335,000*	2,21,000	1,64,000
2021	71,970	1,622,000	1,81,000	1,54,000
2020	58,604	1,298,000	1,63,000	1,47,000
2019	44,942	7,98,000	1,44,000	1,37,000
2018	35,587	6,47,500	1,31,000	
2017	25,105	3,41,400		

Chart 5: The chart shows the estimated waiting time for an interview appointment at a U.S. Embassy for temporary workers

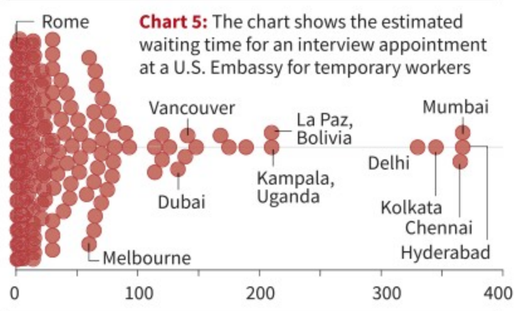


Table 6: The table shows the year-on-year change in employee count for select IT companies in India

Quarters	Infosys	TCS	Wipro*
FY23 Q2	+9,840	+10,032	-1,159
FY23 Q1	+14,136	+21,171	+115
FY22 Q4	+35,209	+21,948	+96
FY22 Q3	+28,238	+12,450	+544
FY22 Q2	+19,690	+11,664	+362

*sales/ support staff

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 1, 1972

Anti-defection Bill not for the current session

New Delhi, Nov. 30: It is learnt that the Government will not be able to introduce during the current session of Parliament the proposed Bill to curb defections. It has been decided to further study the implications of the Anti-Defection Bill which was drawn up some time ago on the basis of certain discussions the Government had with leaders of the Opposition on the subject. Whether at all such a Bill would achieve the purpose is being looked into. Some basic rethinking is being done as to whether the more appropriate course would be for the political parties themselves to follow a code of conduct and impose self-regulating measures to stop defections. But the main question is whether a proposal to disqualify defectors from continuing as members of the legislature would stand the test in courts of law. Article 105 of the Constitution lays down the powers, privileges and immunities of members of Parliament while Article 194 refers to corresponding privileges of members of State Assemblies. In view of this, the question has arisen whether any restriction on a member's right to vote, which is what the Anti-Defection Bill will ultimately mean, will be constitutional. It is also clearly stated that the privileges of members of Parliament until defined by Parliament will continue to be the same as those of the members of the House of the Commons. In effect, any Anti-Defection Bill which abridges the right of the members to vote as they like will offend these provisions of the Constitution. Therefore, the Union Cabinet is believed to have once again decided to remit the matter to the Law Ministry for a further examination so that if a constitutional amendment is necessary, it could be taken up.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 1, 1922

In Australia

Melbourne, Nov. 30: The Company styled Australian Farms Limited has approached the State Government with regard to the settlement of Indian Army Officers in Victoria. The Company proposes that the Government shall provide land for sale to prospective settlers in blocks. The Company will provide stock plant and equipment, payment for which is guaranteed by the Government of India. The Company will take charge of settlers for three years... [and] give a course of training.

From Page One

GDP growth dips to 6.3% as manufacturing slides

This was followed by financial, real estate and professional services, which expanded 7.2%, and construction which grew 6.6%.

"India's growth rates in real terms of 9.7% in the first half of this year is well above the trend in other countries and is happening amid tightening global financial conditions and the commodity price shock since the Ukraine invasion by Russia," the CEA emphasised, adding that moderation in growth rates is expected due to base effects. Barring consumer durables, production levels are well above pre-pandemic levels for most sectors, while in services, all but domestic air passenger traffic levels have reverted to 2019-20 trends, Mr. Nageswaran said.

SC to look into Bilkis Bano's petitions

Ms. Gupta said connected petitions filed by CPI (M) leader Subhashini Ali and others were listed before a Bench led by Justice Ajay Rastogi on Tuesday, but was not taken up as the judge was part of a Constitution Bench hearing the Jallikattu case. She said the case needed to be heard urgently.

The CJI said the review petition may have to be listed first. When Ms. Gupta sought an open court hearing, as review petitions are usually heard in chambers by circulation, the CJI said that would be for the judges concerned to decide.

The petitions filed by Ms. Ali and others like Trinamool leader Mahua Moitra were last heard by Justice Rastogi's Bench on October 18. The court had given the petitioners time to respond to a Gujarat government affidavit which showed that the Special Judge and the CBI in Mumbai had opposed the premature release of the 11 convicts.

The case had then been listed for Tuesday.

Former Chinese leader Jiang Zemin dies

"This was in no small measure due to the leadership of the people who ruled China at the time – Mr. Jiang, Zhu Rongji, Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao," Mr. Gokhale said. "We cannot understand China's great power ambitions if we don't understand this period when they laid all the building blocks for it, whether the modernisation of the People's Liberation Army, a multidimensional foreign policy, attracting Foreign Direct Investment into China, or technology leapfrogging."

The Jiang period saw a transformation of China's place in the world – and marked both its rise as a global trading superpower and a period of extraordinary dependency between China and the West. This was a time when China also saw value in stability in its periphery, including in relations with India. In 1993 and 1996, India and China signed their first-ever border agreements to maintain peace along the Line of Actual Control, with the latter agreement signed during Mr. Jiang's visit to India, the first ever by a Chinese head of state.

Paving way for capitalism

His biggest legacy at home was reshaping Chinese politics to the needs of the economic reform era. Mr. Jiang worked to overcome the political opposition to officially Communist China's embrace of capitalism, captured in his official ideology which is called the "Three Represents" and was added to the Party Constitution. It stated that the Party would not only represent workers, farmers and Communists, but also all of China's "advanced productive forces", cultural elements, and the "fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people".

It paved the way for businesspeople and entrepreneurs to join the Party's ranks and to de-emphasise the role of ideology in the party, a trend that carried on in the Hu Jintao era. The current leader, Mr. Xi, has in the eyes of many observers in Beijing reversed that trend by once again re-emphasising the centrality of the Party.

The retreat of the Party from the lives of people saw an era of relative openness, although Mr. Jiang, like his predecessor Deng, cracked down on any and all spaces that were seen as challenging its rule, such as the once popular Falun Gong movement, which was crushed in 1999.

Mr. Jiang, who retired in 2002, remained influential behind the scenes in the Hu Jintao years, with many of his political appointees occupying top party positions. After Mr. Xi came to power in 2012, he stayed out of the public spotlight, largely due to ill health. State media reported he passed away due to leukemia and multiple organ failure.

In recent years, Mr. Jiang garnered somewhat of a cult status for some on Chinese social media, remembered as the last of charismatic and relatively open leaders, and a contrast to his successors. He often broke into song or English, and memorably conducted an orchestra in the presence of Bill Clinton, a video that went viral after his passing. His death could not have come at a more sensitive time for China's current leader, Mr. Xi, who has in recent days been confronting the biggest challenge to his rule with protests against lockdowns and the "zero-Covid" policy over the weekend. Chinese cities have this week seen a stepped up deployment of police to thwart further protests and public gatherings, as well as increased online censorship. As online tributes to Mr. Jiang flooded social media on November 30, the leadership faces a delicate task of organising a state tribute to bid farewell to the leader at a heated political moment in China.

16 drones shot down along Pak. border this year: BSF

The paramilitary force does not have foolproof anti-drone technology, though some firms are working on an indigenous solution, and the Centre is trying to procure a vehicle-mounted system

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force has shot down 16 drones in areas along the Pakistan border this year, mostly in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, BSF Director-General Pankaj Kumar Singh said on Wednesday.

Drones have emerged as one of the key challenges for the force that guards the border, said Mr. Singh, as it does not yet have a "foolproof anti-drone technology" though some Indian companies are working on solutions.

"We are providing good incentive to the force to detect and shoot down these drones. They usually enter when it is dark and it is difficult to detect them by keeping an ear to the ground. This year, 16 drones were shot down, while last year only one drone was taken down," Mr. Singh said at a press conference on the eve of the 58th Raising Day of the force.

Caught flying: BSF personnel display a drone gunned down by the troops near Amritsar on Tuesday. AFP

New technology

He said that new technology was being tested to detect the drones, adding that the BSF has tied up with the State police for patrolling in-depth areas and to confiscate items such as drugs and arms that are dropped by the drones.

"When the drones drop items, somebody on this side of the border has to be there to collect it. We increased patrolling and deployment in the areas away from the border after it was found during an interrogation of an accused that items are being dropped in such manner," he said.

He added that all drones had a unique chip carrying information about their flight path and other details. Based on the analysis, the BSF passed on precise electronic evidence to the Punjab Police who arrested eight persons for smuggling drugs. It was found that all eight were previously convicted of a similar crime.

Many anti-drone systems with varying capabilities are deployed on the border, said Mr. Singh, adding that procurement of a vehicle-mounted system is under consideration by the Union Home Ministry. He said the Ministry has sanctioned ₹30 crore to deploy 5,500 surveillance cameras along the borders. The BSF is trying to raise awareness among the public that the Army is not the only organisation that protects the border.

"We have reached out to three lakh schoolchildren on the role of the BSF," the D-G said.

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind seeks SC status for Dalit Muslims

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

A petition to the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre is listed for hearing today

The oldest Muslim organisation in the country, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, has become the first Muslim body to accept caste-based Pasmanda Muslim identity of community members. In a significant move, the Jamiat has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre to grant the Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Muslims to help them avail get reservation in government jobs and admission to educational institutions.

The petition, filed earlier, is listed for hearing this Thursday. "I have written that the essence of Islam does not recognise caste system but there are cultural practices which creep into a faith. Certain socio-economic benefits are granted to people through a special status conferred on them. If certain people are excluded merely because they have accepted Islam or Christianity, it amounts to being arbitrary and discrminatory," M.R. Shamshad, Jamiat's advocate, told *The Hindu*. The Jamiat moved an application seeking to be a party in a petition seeking a similar Scheduled Caste status for Christians. According to the application, Dalit Muslims were not included in the Scheduled Caste category under the 1950 Presidential Order on the assumption that Islam stood for a casteless society.

However, caste-based benefits were extended to Dalit Sikhs, though Sikhism does not have a caste hierarchy.

The Jamiat contends that nearly half of Dalit Muslims in urban India are below the poverty line and deserve reservation to improve their economic and educational condition.

Amid pleas for higher pension, EPFO staff ask head office for guidelines on SC order

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Without any guidelines to implement the recent Supreme Court order on higher Provident Fund (PF) pension, the staff in various offices of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) have asked their head office for a "direction" to address the queries from thousands of subscribers they have to face on a daily basis. The All India EPF Federation, an umbrella organisation of various unions working in the EPFO, in a letter, has demanded Central PF Commissioner Neelam Sami Rao for more employees in the pension wing as the workload of each office will be increased manifold once the offices start implementing the Supreme Court order.

The federation has demanded an increase in staff strength as they expect a manifold rise in work. FILE PHOTO

In the letter, the federation's secretary-general, R. Krupakaran, said the existing staff would not be able to handle the works in addition to their normal duties. "After the judgment, several members and pensioners are visiting the offices for guidance for submission of option for higher pension or for various queries regarding the judgment. However, the Pension Division of the head office is yet to issue any direction/guidelines," Mr. Krupakaran said.

He told *The Hindu* that without such a guideline it was difficult for the staff to answer such questions and take a decision on the applications already received. Mr. Krupakaran said there were a number of doubts regarding the conditions laid down in the judgment for higher pension.

The federation said that in the recent judgment, the court upheld the *R.C. Gupta* case verdict on the matter and several pension cases had earlier been settled by calculating the pensionable salary by taking 12 months' average based on High Court orders.

The letter said a good number of applications were expected to receive in the offices within four months and the workload in the pension wing of each office would be increased manifold.

"You may be aware that all offices nationwide are running with acute staff shortage in each cadre. Each Dealing Assistant/Section Supervisor/Accounts Officer is allotted with two or more tasks in Accounts branch and other sections. In such a distressing condition of staff, forming special cells by utilising the skeleton staff from other sections will definitely be suicidal," it said.

J&K hiring scam: CBI searches 14 locations

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

The CBI on Wednesday conducted searches at 14 locations in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the alleged irregularities in the examination to the posts of Accounts Assistant conducted by the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB). The premises of a former member of the JKSSB were also searched.

"Searches were conducted at around 14 locations, including in Jammu, Samba, etc. on the premises of accused and others in the case related to alleged irregularities," a CBI spokesperson said.

Mehbooba backs IFFI jury head's remarks

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday backed Israeli filmmaker Nadav Lapid's criticism of *The Kashmir Files* movie at the International Film Festival of India's closing ceremony.

"Finally, someone called out a movie that was nothing but sheer propaganda promoted by the ruling party to demonise Muslims especially Kashmiris and widen the gulf between Pandits and Muslims. Sad that diplomatic channels are now being used to silence the truth," Ms. Mufti said in a tweet.

Her remarks came just hours after Mr. Lapid's fresh statement, where he alleged that the movie has "fascist features" and "justifies the Indian policy in Kashmir". PDP leader Naeem Akhtar said, "Vulgar comments on our saffron curriculum. It (the movie) was made a compulsory subject for schools, adults, politicians? IFFI jury head calls The Kashmir Files 'vulgar propaganda' on stage."

Why constitutional validity of J&K Reorganisation Act clause went unchallenged: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday quizzed petitioners about the reason for not challenging the constitutional validity of a specific provision in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act which gives the Delimitation Commission the power to "carry out" the readjustment of constituencies in the Union Territory formed after the dilution of Article 370 in the erstwhile State.

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and A.S. Oka said the petition filed by Srinagar residents Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Mohammad Ayub Mattoo was limited to a challenge of the notification issued by the Centre in March 2020 establishing the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission and a second one in March 2021 extending its term for the purpose of conducting delimitation only for Jammu and Kashmir.

Justice Oka said the notifications drew their power specifically from Section 62(2) of the 2019 Act. Section 62(2) provides for the readjustment of constituencies to be carried out by the Delimitation Commission.

> Notifications issued by the Centre drew their power specifically from Section 62(2) of the J&K Reorganisation 2019 Act
>
> **JUSTICE A.S. OKA**
> Supreme Court

The court asked why the petitioners without challenging the source of the government's notifications, that is Section 62(2), had confined their challenge solely to the notifications.

The petitioners, represented by senior advocate Ravi Shankar Jandhyala and advocates Sriram Parakkat and M.S. Vishnu Shankar, argued that only the Election Commission (EC), under Section 60 of the 2019 Act, was empowered to conduct the delimitation exercise. They further argued before the Bench that Article 170 of the Constitution barred delimitation exercise on the basis of the 2011 census. It had to either happen on the basis of 2001 census or await "the first census after the year 2026", they argued.

The petitioners alleged that Sections 60 and 61 of the 2019 Act, which defined the role of the EC in the process of delimitation, were in contradiction to Section 62.

The government has countered that there were two alternative mechanisms to carry out delimitation for J&K. By virtue of Sections 60-61, while the power to determine delimitation was conferred on the EC, Section 62(2) and 62(3) conferred powers to carry out delimitation on the Commission.

China warns U.S. not to interfere in its relations with India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

China seeks to "prevent" tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) from pushing India "to partner more closely" with the U.S. and has warned American officials "not to interfere" with its relationship with India, the U.S. Department of Defence said in its latest report.

"Throughout the stand-off [which began in 2020], PRC [People's Republic of China] officials sought to downplay the severity of the crisis, emphasising Beijing's intent to preserve border stability and prevent the stand-off from harming other areas of its bilateral relationship with India," the China military power report 2022, which was submitted to the U.S. Congress, said.

The report said that over the course of 2021, and as seen in 2022, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) increasingly turned to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) as "an instrument of statecraft in support of its national strategy and global ambitions", while also highlighting that the PLA had "adopted more dangerous, coercive and aggressive actions" in the Indo-Pacific region.

"Differing perceptions of border demarcations along the LAC combined with recent infrastructure construction, led to multiple unarmed clashes, an ongoing stand-off, and military build-ups on both sides of the India-China border," it said.

Further, referring to the violent Galwan Valley clash of June 2020, which resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers and at least four Chinese personnel, the report said the Western Theatre Command conducted large-scale mobilisation and deployment of PLA forces. "Due to the sustained military development along the LAC, the Western Theatre Command's deployment will likely continue through 2022," it added. The report said that each country demanded the withdrawal of the other's forces and a return to the pre-stand-off conditions, but neither China nor India agreed to the conditions.

Mann displays 25,000 'zero' electricity bills from Punjab

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday showed a bunch of 25,000 "zero" electricity bills from his State, making a pitch that the people of Gujarat could enjoy such benefits if the Aam Aadmi Party is voted to power in the Assembly polls.

Providing free electricity up to 300 units per month is one of the main election "guarantees" of the AAP in Gujarat.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Mann said the zero electricity bills were received by 61 lakh out of the 75 lakh households in Punjab, which is a testimony to the AAP's commitment that it walks the talk.

"I have brought 25,000 zero electricity bills with the names and addresses which you can check. To date, there are around 75 lakh electric meters in Punjab. As many as 61 lakh households have received zero electricity bills."

"We do what we say, and we say what we can do. The same can happen in Gujarat," he said.

Voting in 89 Gujarat constituencies today; 788 candidates in the fray

Of the 2.4 crore eligible to vote in the first phase of the Assembly election, 5.74 lakh are new voters in the 18-19 age group, while 4,945 are more than 99 years old; 14,382 polling stations set up for the phase and over a lakh officials deployed

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Voting will take place in 89 constituencies in the first phase of the Assembly election in Gujarat on Thursday, spread across 19 districts in Saurashtra, Kutch and the southern parts of the State. As many as 788 candidates are in the fray.

Campaigning for the first phase ended on Tuesday evening, while it continued in the northern and central districts which vote in the second phase on December 5.

Polling will be held between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Thursday across 14,382 polling stations, the office of the State Chief Electoral Officer said. There are 3,311 booths in urban regions and 11,071 in rural areas.

Of the 4.91 crore registered voters in Gujarat, 2.4 crore are eligible to vote in the first phase. They include 5.74 lakh voters in the of 18-19 age group, and 4,945 above the age of 99, it said. Apart from the ruling BJP, the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), 36 political outfits, including the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Samajwadi Party (SP), the CPI(M) and the Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP), have fielded candidates.

Gearing up: EVMs and other election materials ready to be distributed to polling officials ahead of the first phase of Gujarat Assembly elections, in Rajkot, on Wednesday. PTI

The BJP and the Congress are contesting all 89 seats, while the new-entrant AAP is contesting 88. The AAP candidate for Surat East had withdrawn his candidature, leaving the party with one fewer seat to contest.

The BSP has fielded 57 candidates, the BTP 14 and the CPI(M) four. As many as 339 Independents are in the fray in the first phase.

Of the 788 candidates, 70 are women, including nine fielded by the BJP, six by the Congress and five by the AAP.

The key candidates in the fray are the AAP's chief ministerial candidate, Isudan Gadhvi, contesting from Jam Khambhalia; former State Congress president Arjun Modhvadia from Porbandar; the AAP's Gujarat chief Gopal Italia from Katargam; former Patidar quota agitation leader Alpesh Kathiriya from Varachha Road; former Leader of the Opposition Paresh Dhanani from Amreli; and cricketer Ravindra Jadeja's wife Rivaba Jadeja from Jamnagar North seat.

Prominent candidates

The prominent candidates in the first phase include junior Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi and Cabinet Minister Purnesh Modi from different seats in Surat, and five-time MLA and former Minister Parshottam Solanki from Bhavnagar (Rural).

In a press release, the CEO said that a total of 2.2 lakh trained officers and employees will be on duty for the smooth conduct of the election. In the first phase, 27,978 presiding officers and 78,985 polling officers will be on duty during the voting process.

Over tenfold increase in contraband seized in Gujarat, says EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Seizures of poll-related contraband in the run-up to the Gujarat Assembly election have been more than tenfold higher than they were in 2017, the Election Commission (EC) said here on the eve of the first phase of polling in the State.

The total seizures ahead of the 2017 Assembly election were ₹27.21 crore. This time, the chart up to November 29 records seizures of ₹290.24 crore, a jump of 10.66 times, the Commission said.

One significant ongoing seizure still under way in Vadodara (Rural) and Vadodara City is a heavy consignment of drugs. After the identification of two mephedrone drug manufacturing units, about 143 kg of the synthetic drug worth an estimated ₹478 crore has been seized.

According to the EC, ₹27.07 crore in cash, liquor worth ₹14.88 crore, narcotics worth ₹61.96 crore, precious metals valued at ₹15.79 crore and freebies worth ₹171.24 crore have so far been seized in the State.

If the value of the 143 kg drug seizure is added to this, the total contraband confiscated in the poll-bound State would record a jump of 28 times from that of the previous Assembly election, the EC said.

"Behind the stupendous rise in seizure figures has been the comprehensive strategy, detailed planning and rigorous follow-ups by the Election Commission," the EC said.

When announcing the voting dates for these polls, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had stressed the importance of inducement-free elections.

'Adivasi' or 'Vanvasi'? Row over title puts tribes in political spotlight

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Words are politically weighted, and an example of that is playing out between the BJP and the Congress over just how to refer to India's tribal communities. According to the Congress, it should be "Adivasi" (original inhabitants), while the Sangh Parivar opts for "Vanvasi".

The conflict over name and what it says about the respective politics of both these strands flared up recently as Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi addressed a few political rallies in Gujarat, a State with 27 out its 182 Assembly seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

The Congress has been a dominant force in the tribal belt in the eastern part of the State, and has regularly out-run the BJP there. In his rallies in Gujarat, and later at a rally in the tribal belt in nearby Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Gandhi clearly differentiated what he meant by "Adivasi" and why he felt the word "Vanvasi" had a connotation that was less than desirable.

> The Congress says Adivasis are the rightful owners of the country's resources... We are for their empowerment
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Former Congress chief

"BJP calls you 'Vanvasis' (forest dwellers). The Congress says Adivasis are the rightful owners of the country's resources. The differences between them and us is not just in the names we call the Adivasis by but also in our mentalities. We are for the empowerment of Adivasis while they are for torture," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Gandhi also said that the Sangh Parivar's terming of tribal communities as "Vanvasis" was to confine the identity of tribal people to forests and hand over those forests to industrialists, depriving them of their land and other rights.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Harsh Chouhan, Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), said that the whole issue was a political gimmick and it was "dangerous" as it veered around the idea of certifying politically as to who was a "*mool niwasi*" (original inhabitant).

"That is a debate that is ongoing and this attempt to bring closure to it in this manner is political. The attempt by those who want the *mool niwasi* debate on is to make it like U.S. history, with Native Americans and European colonisation, which is not the case in India. That narrative needs to be understood," Dr. Chouhan said.

He added that the word "Adivasi" had been devised by the British to term tribal communities as aboriginals, whereas the Constituent Assembly had very carefully termed tribal communities as "Janjati".

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) sources who spoke to *The Hindu* on condition of not being named, however, said that from Mr. Gandhi's attempts to raise the issue and through his Bharat Jodo Yatra, it was clear that he was attempting a "back to basics" approach to drumming up support from communities that were traditionally aligned with the Congress.

INBRIEF

100 monuments to be lit up to mark India's G-20 Presidency

One hundred Centrally protected monuments will be illuminated for a week beginning Thursday when India assumes G-20 presidency for a year. The monuments include Delhi's Qutub Minar and Purana Qila, Fort Vellore in Tamil Nadu and the Golconda Fort in Hyderabad. The other monuments on the list include the Sarnath and Dhamek stupas, Fatehpur Sikri and Sikandra in Agra, the Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram and the Charminar in Hyderabad. The Jageshwar temple in Uttarakhand, the Hazarduari palace in Murshidabad in West Bengal and the Ancient Palace in Leh are also part of the list.

Senior journalist Ravish Kumar resigns from NDTV

Senior journalist Ravish Kumar, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee, on Wednesday quit NDTV a day after the channel's founders Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy resigned as directors on the board of its parent entity, RRPR Holding Private Ltd. NDTV Group president Suparna Singh, in an e-mail to her colleagues, reportedly said: "Ravish has resigned from NDTV and the company has agreed to his request for his resignation to be effective immediately". She said: "Few journalists have impacted people as much as Ravish. This reflects in the immense feedback about him; in the crowds he draws everywhere; in the prestigious awards he has received..."

Panel to study reasons for exit of projects from Maharashtra

Cornered by Opposition parties over big-ticket industrial projects going out of Maharashtra in the last few months, the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government has decided to form a three-member committee led by a retired High Court judge to probe the reasons for the flight. State Industries Minister Uday Samant on Wednesday said that a 'White Paper' would be released in the next 60 days to disclose information on the industrial investment received by the State. The committee, which will have two retired bureaucrats as the other members, will bring out the facts in the matter, Mr. Samant said.

PCI advises against media articles predicting poll results

The Press Council of India (PCI) has advised the print media to refrain from publishing articles that in any way predict the results of polls during the prohibited period under the Representation of the People Act. This comes ahead of the State Assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. The Council said that it was of the view that the forecast of election results, in any form or manner by way of predictions, astrologers, tarot card readers, political analysts or by any persons during the prohibited period, was a violation of the spirit of Section 126A of the Act.

'India's G-20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented'

Narendra Modi

The previous 17 Presidencies of the G-20 delivered significant results - for ensuring macro-economic stability, rationalising international taxation, relieving debt-burden on countries, among many other outcomes. We will benefit from these achievements, and build further upon them.

However, as India assumes this important mantle, I ask myself – can the G-20 go further still? Can we catalyse a fundamental mindset shift, to benefit humanity as a whole?

I believe we can.

Our mindsets are shaped by our circumstances. Through all of history, humanity lived in scarcity. We fought for limited resources, because our survival depended on denying them to others. Confrontation and competition – between ideas, ideologies and identities – became the norm.

Unfortunately, we remain trapped in the same zero-sum mindset even today. We see it when countries fight over territory or resources. We see it when supplies of essential goods are weaponised. We see it when vaccines are hoarded by a few, even as billions remain vulnerable.

Some may argue that confrontation and greed are just human nature. I disagree. If humans were inherently selfish, what would explain the lasting appeal of so many spiritual traditions that advocate the fundamental oneness of us all?

One such tradition, popular in India, sees all living beings, and even inanimate things, as composed of the same five basic elements - the *panch tatva* of earth, water, fire, air and space. Harmony among these elements – within us and between us – is essential for our physical, social and environmental well-being.

India's G-20 Presidency will work to promote this universal sense of oneness. Hence our theme – "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

In unison: Flags of G-20 countries at the summit venue of the grouping in Bali on November 12. The Prime Minister says priorities of India's G-20 Presidency will be shaped in consultation with not just the member states but also fellow-travellers in the global South. AP

This is not just a slogan. It takes into account recent changes in human circumstances, which we have collectively failed to appreciate.

Today, we have the means to produce enough to meet the basic needs of all people in the world.

Today, we do not need to fight for our survival – our era need not be one of war. Indeed, it must not be one!

Today, the greatest challenges we face – climate change, terrorism, and pandemics – can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together.

Fortunately, today's technology also gives us the means to address problems on a humanity-wide scale. The massive virtual worlds that we inhabit today demonstrate the scalability of digital technologies.

Housing one-sixth of humanity, and with its immense diversity of languages, religions, customs and beliefs, India is a microcosm of the world.

With the oldest-known traditions of collective decision-making, India contributes to the foundational DNA of democracy. As the mother of democracy, India's national consensus is forged not by diktat but by blending millions of free voices into one harmonious melody.

Today, India is the fastest-growing large economy. Our citizen-centric governance model takes care of even our most marginalised citizens, while nurturing the creative genius of our talented youth.

We have tried to make national development not an exercise in top-down governance, but rather a citizen-led "people's movement".

Digital public goods

We have leveraged technology to create digital public goods that are open, inclusive and interoperable. These have delivered revolutionary progress in fields as varied as social protection, financial inclusion, and electronic payments.

For all these reasons, India's experiences can provide insights for possible global solutions.

During our G-20 Presidency, we shall present India's experiences, learnings and models as possible templates for others, particularly the developing world.

Our G-20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G-20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the global South, whose voice often goes unheard.

Our priorities will focus on healing our "One Earth", creating harmony within our "One Family" and giving hope for our "One Future".

For healing our planet, we will encourage sustainable and environment-friendly lifestyles, based on India's tradition of trusteeship towards nature.

For promoting harmony within the human family, we will seek to depoliticise the global supply of food, fertilizers and medical products, so that geopolitical tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises. As in our own families, those whose needs are the greatest must always be our first concern.

For imbuing hope in our future generations, we will encourage an honest conversation among the most powerful countries – on mitigating risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and enhancing global security.

India's G-20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive.

Let us join together to make India's G-20 Presidency a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope.

Let us work together to shape a new paradigm – of human-centric globalisation.

INBRIEF

Six killed, 15 injured in bus-truck collision in U.P.

At least six persons were killed and more than a dozen injured when an Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation bus collided with a truck on the Bahraich-Lucknow highway near Tappesipah village on Wednesday, the police said. Speaking to presspersons, Bahraich District Magistrate Dinesh Chandra Singh said, "Six persons were killed on the spot while 15 were injured in the accident. The UPSRTC bus was going to Bahraich from Lucknow while the truck was coming back to Lucknow." The truck driver fled from the accident site in the vehicle, and is still at large. The police are looking for him. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed condolences.

Chidambaram says govt. blind to factors affecting economy

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram has panned the government saying it is living in denial about the internal factors responsible for the economic downslide in the context of the latest GDP numbers for the second quarter of this financial year. In a series of tweets on Wednesday, he noted that GDP growth rate had fallen from 13.5% to 6.3%. From the current trend, the figures for the third quarter could be lower, he said. "There are both external factors and internal factors that have pulled down the growth rate. The pity is that the government is helpless against the external factors and in denial about the internal factors," he said.

Farm labourers stage protest against Punjab government

The Punjab Police on Wednesday used force on a group of farm labourers as they marched towards Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's residence in Sangrur town. The protesters were demonstrating against the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for not paying heed to their long-pending demands. Under the banner of 'Sanjha Mazdoor Morcha', a joint front of eight outfits, gathered in Sangrur to stage a demonstration against the AAP, accusing the government of failing to fulfil their demands after giving them assurances on multiple occasions. They said half a dozen labourers were hurt.

Student unrest continues at South Asian University

The South Asian University (SAU) in Delhi is witnessing widespread student unrest over issues concerning scholarships, fee-waiver and additional time for completing Ph.D. after pandemic-induced delays. Students have been on a warpath with the university administration, with some being expelled, rusticated or suspended. Two expelled students five days ago took to social media to flag this and tagged Congress MP Shashi Tharoor who promptly assured them help. The SAU, an international university, supposed to be a dream academic collaboration of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations, was established by member-nations in 2010.

SC worried over effect of GM crops on livelihood of women farm labourers

Petitions challenge environmental nod given to GM mustard; petitioner says widespread use of herbicide-tolerant crops will encourage farmers to spray chemical weed-killers, leaving large amounts of toxic chemical residue on the crops

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed concern about the plight of thousands of women agricultural labourers in rural areas traditionally engaged in de-weeding as they would be part of the human cost if the government permitted the commercial cultivation of herbicide-tolerant crops such as GM mustard.

"In rural areas, women are experts in removing weeds. They are a part of the labour force in agriculture in India. It brings them employment... You know it is because women started agriculture that humankind stopped being nomads and we saw the sprouting of civilisations," Justice B.V. Nagarathna observed orally while hearing challenges against the environmental clearance given to genetically modified mustard by the Centre.

Crucial factor: Women working on a mustard field in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, the lead judge on the Bench, agreed that women were an integral part of the Indian agricultural landscape from paddy fields to tea estates, across the country.

"They work in knee-deep water in the fields, bending the whole day and working," Justice Nagarathna said.

Senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, for a petitioner, said the widespread use of herbicide-tolerant crops would encourage farmers to spray chemical weed-killers, leaving toxic chemical residue in large amounts on the crops.

'Not meant for India'

"The Supreme Court's own Technical Expert Committee [TEC] had said that these GM crops were not meant for agriculture in the Indian context. They may be suitable in the western context where there are large farms, but not here," Mr. Parikh argued.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, for activist Aruna Rodrigues, submitted that India had 5,477 varieties of mustard, which would be at risk. He argued that the regulatory system under the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), which cleared the environmental release of Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11), a genetically engineered variant of mustard, was "horrendous" and riddled with conflict of interest.

Mr. Bhushan said the Department of Biotechnology had funded DMH 11 and then was part of the regulatory mechanism. The environmental release of the hybrid mustard variety was cleared despite warnings from the parliamentary committee and the Supreme Court's Technical Expert Committee report calling for its ban. Besides, the government had not placed the biosafety dossier on the GM crop in the public domain.

He said the Supreme Court-appointed member of the GEAC, Pushpa M. Bhargava, had said the commercial cultivation of GM mustard would open the door wide, for multinational corporations.

He said GM mustard, if approved for commercial cultivation, would be the first genetically modified food crop available to Indian farmers. He recalled how Bt Brinjal was withdrawn by the government years ago after the regulatory system was found riddled with inconsistencies.

"Hybrid crops should not be released in the open fields and allowed to contaminate other crops... It would trigger a chain reaction which would be irreversible," he said.

Mr. Bhushan said the testing of the GM crop was "completely flawed". There were no labs capable of doing bio-safety tests.

The Attorney-General will argue on behalf of the government on Thursday.

Woman who dated Aftab gives police statement

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have recorded the statement of a woman who allegedly dated Mehrauli murder case accused Aftab Poonawalla days after he allegedly killed his live-in-partner Shraddha Walkar and dismembered her body, sources said on Wednesday.

A senior police officer said the woman, who works as a clinical psychologist, said she met Aftab in June through a dating app, following which they had a long conversation.

"She went to his house in October, following which they stopped talking. She said that she did not have an inkling that Aftab had a girlfriend before that and that he had killed her," the officer said.

Her statement was recorded on Monday, sources said.

The officer said other persons, including the woman Aftab had been with, were being questioned by the police in the case.

SC seeks Centre's response on evolving a programme to protect Great Indian Bustard

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought the government's response about evolving a "Project Great Indian Bustard" conservation programme like the Project Tiger to bring attention to the peril faced by the critically endangered bird.

Project Tiger is touted by the government as one of the most successful conservation programmes for a single species in the world.

"Can we not have a focussed approach by the Environment Ministry involving something like Project Tiger? Take instructions on it. Have a word with the Minister and come back to us on it," Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud addressed Attorney-General R. Venkataramani and Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the government. The court is hearing a series of petitions highlighting the numerous deaths of Great Indian Bustards due to power transmission lines criss-crossing their habitat in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The court is hearing petitions highlighting the numerous deaths of Great Indian Bustards in Gujarat and Rajasthan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Expert panel

In its order, the Special Bench, including Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian, directed the Chief Secretaries of Gujarat and Rajasthan to undertake and complete a comprehensive exercise within four weeks to find out the total length of the transmission lines in question and the number of bird diverters required in the priority areas of the birds' habitats.

The court was not, however, for the time being, ready to agree with the Centre's plea to expand its expert committee formed in April 2022 to study the problem.

The government wanted the court to allow the Additional Secretary of the Renewable Energy Ministry and the Chief Operating Officer of Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd. to join the committee as domain experts on transmission lines. Instead, the Bench said the expert committee was free to consult the firm's officer for his expert opinion for now.

160-200 mn Indians could be exposed to lethal heat waves annually: World Bank report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

From 2030, 160 million to 200 million people can be exposed to lethal heatwaves in India every year, and nearly 34 million Indians will face job losses due to heat stress-related productivity decline. By 2037, the demand for cooling is likely to be eight times more than the current level, the World Bank has said in a report.

In this scenario, it is imperative for India to deploy alternative and innovative energy efficient technologies for keeping spaces cool. According to the report, "Climate investment opportunities in India's cooling sector", this could open an investment opportunity of $1.6 trillion by 2040, besides reducing greenhouse gas emissions significantly and creating 3.7 million jobs.

With the demand for cooling shooting up, there will be a demand for a new air-conditioner every 15 seconds, the report said, leading to an expected rise of 435% in annual greenhouse gas emissions over the next two decades. Thus, there is a need to shift to a more energy-efficient pathway which could lead to a reduction in expected CO2 levels.

> India's cooling strategy can help save lives and livelihoods, reduce carbon emissions and position it as a global hub for green cooling manufacturing
>
> **AUGUSTE TANO KOUAMÉ**
> World Bank's Country Director

The report proposes a road map to support New Delhi's India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), 2019, through new investments in three major sectors: building construction, cold chains and refrigerants.

Adopting climate-responsive cooling techniques as a norm in both private and government-funded constructions can ensure that those at the bottom of the economic ladder are not disproportionately affected by rising temperatures. The report suggests that India's affordable housing programme for the poor, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), can adopt such changes on scale.

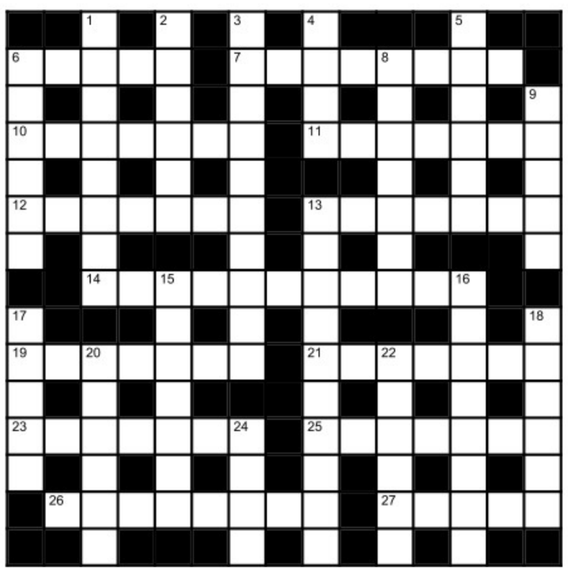
It proposed enacting a policy for "district cooling", which could lead to the consumption of 20-30% less power than the most efficient conventional cooling solutions. District cooling technologies generate chilled water in a central plant which is then distributed to buildings via underground insulated pipes. This brings down the cost for providing cooling to individual buildings. Apart from this, guidelines for implementation of local and city-wide urban cooling measures such as cool-roofs should also be considered. "India's cooling strategy can help save lives and livelihoods and reduce carbon emissions.

TH CROSSWORD + 13725

(set by WrdPlougher)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

6 Disconnected cables partially entangled around two knobs at the hub (5)
7 Observant article about electronic currency (4-4)
10 Brahms and Liszt tuning crwth, essentially tightening screw (4,3)
11 "Please speak about tight fist!"... (7)
12 ... employees beginning to shout near busy emergency room, barging in (7)
13 Temporary short-lived reputation (5-2)
14 Ring this nicely, finally press this to find the point marking the door to a man's heart? (5,6)
19 Allure of the French monsieur initially opting to wear inverted hairpiece in America (7)
21 Bend our crooked boomerang (7)
23 Topical dances for the eyes (7)
25 A 'friend' primarily into fashionable western Italian composer (7)
26 Tuk-tuk nearly covering one mile, starting to behold a faraway place (8)
27 Oil container, crude truck filled with energy for a thousand (5)

Down

1 Above stall, in conclusion, right place to store cereal (8)
2 Every other step except the first in dance party involving spirits (6)
3 Oracle's black ash — absurd hearsay without a bit of accuracy (10)
4 Date back origin of fossil to be in the lead for reward (4)
5 Learned as a poem (6)
6 Advocate raw honesty, finally inspired by real revolutionary (6)
8 Snippet of garbled text about unfinished race (7)
9 Striving, striving in the second half to grasp story's ending (5)
13 Raw cabbage a Turk sure appreciates, primarily shredded (10)
15 Swinging iron club — rough's first cut of Simba, perhaps... (4,3)
16 ... lush, trimmed — after putt essentially gets buried in green... finally, endless rain forming spiral-shaped water body? (8)
17 Silver, coarse and bright (5)
18 Air defence division at sea (6)
20 Ain't at sea at first, secure (6)
22 Bites roughly, getting at first cut, cut (6)
24 Similar to social media icon (4)

SUDOKU

5			8	1				4
	7	6				3		2
		9		6		5	3	
6				4				8
	2	5		3		4		
2		4				6	1	
7				8	1			9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5635 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	9	4	6	2	3	8	5
8	3	4	7	1	5	2	9	6
5	6	2	8	9	3	4	1	7
9	1	6	2	7	8	5	3	4
7	8	5	9	3	4	6	2	1
4	2	3	1	5	6	9	7	8
3	5	1	6	2	7	8	4	9
6	9	8	3	4	1	7	5	2
2	4	7	5	8	9	1	6	3

FAITH

Glory of Sri Bhagavad Gita

The abode of Lord Vishnu is Vaikunta and that spiritual world is free from illusion. This material world that we live in is quite opposite and full of illusions. Ornithologists say birds are constantly fearful and fear is a strong emotion. We are facing fearful hurdles like birds. Our vision, compassion and mood should be Lord-conscious to weed out the fears. A person who studies Gita even for a short period, who takes just a drop of Ganga water and who worships Lord Krishna even a little time, will not have the fear of Yama – the God of death.

Sugarcane juice is heated and boiled and we get sweetened jaggery. The source of a fruit is tree, but the fruit is sweeter. The Gita is sweeter than its source the Mahabharatha. It came from the lips of Lord Krishna. The Bhagavad Gita contains 18 chapters. The first six dealing with karma yoga – connecting to Krishna through activities. The last six dealing with jnana yoga – connecting to Him by knowledge. The remaining six chapters are called bhakthi yoga.

Anything that is important and supreme is well protected. Krishna bhakthi is valuable and so bhakthi yoga is well protected between the doors of karma yoga and jnana yoga. A big ocean liner, when its engine switched off is pulled by a small boat. Similarly we are towed away by the small worldly pleasures. We have to chant the names of Lord Krishna and keep our spiritual engine on. The Bhagavad Gita is our life manual. The general myth of postponing to the later part of our life should be given up.We have to start learning the Gita from a very young age to achieve the ultimate bliss, said Sri Amarnath Prabhu in a discourse.

QUETTA

Suicide blast in Pakistan targeting police kills 3, leaves 28 wounded

AFP

A suicide bomb blast in Pakistan's southwestern city of Quetta targeted a police patrol on Wednesday, killing three people and wounding 28, the police said. The explosion, claimed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in a text message to *Reuters*, came after the group ended a ceasefire this week. REUTERS

HOUSTON

At least 20 tornadoes hit southern U.S., relief shelters opened

AP

At least 20 tornadoes hit the southern United States on Wednesday, cutting power and damaging homes, the National Weather Service said, urging residents to seek shelter. One of the relief shelters opened is located in a dome-shaped multipurpose facility capable of withstanding 250 mph winds. AFP

LONDON

U.K. unveils digital trade deal with Ukraine; meeting set in London

AFP

Britain will on Wednesday agree a digital trade deal with Ukraine, whose economy has been ravaged by Russia's invasion. U.K. Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch and Ukrainian Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko will meet in London to unveil the deal, the government said in a statement. AFP

MOSCOW

Seized two east Ukraine villages near Bakhmut, says Russian Army

AFP

The Russian Army said on Wednesday it seized two east Ukrainian settlements near the embattled town of Bakhmut that Moscow has been trying to capture since this summer. The small gains come as Russian armed forces, desperate for a win after retreating from Kherson, have thrown all their might in the battle for Bakhmut. AFP

Russian, Chinese bombers fly joint patrols over Pacific

Drills show increasingly close defence ties between the two countries; in September, Beijing had sent 2,000 troops for exercises with Russia

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Show of strength: A Tu-95 strategic bomber of the Russian air force flies as part of a joint patrol over the Pacific. AP

Russian and Chinese strategic bombers on Wednesday flew a joint patrol over the western Pacific in a show of increasingly close defence ties between the two countries.

The Russian Defence Ministry said the Tu-95 bombers of the Russian Air Force and the Chinese H-6K bombers flew over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea during an eight-hour mission.

As part of the drills, the Russian bombers for the first time landed in China and the Chinese bombers flew to an air base in Russia, the Ministry said in a statement. It noted that the joint patrols weren't directed against any other country.

The exercise follows a series of joint drills intended to showcase a growing military cooperation between Moscow and Beijing as they both face tensions with the U.S.

In September, Beijing sent more than 2,000 troops along with more than 300 military vehicles, 21 combat aircraft and three warships to take part in a sweeping joint exercise with Russia. The manoeuvres marked the first time that China has sent forces from three branches of its military to take part in a single Russian drill, in what was described as a show of the breadth and depth of China-Russia military cooperation and mutual trust.

Defence cooperation between Moscow and Beijing has grown stronger since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent his troops into Ukraine on February 24.

China has pointedly refused to criticise Russia's actions, blaming the U.S. and NATO for provoking Moscow, and has blasted the punishing sanctions imposed on Moscow.

IS leader killed in battle; new chief named

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

The Islamic State jihadist group said on Wednesday that its leader Abu Hasan al-Hashimi al-Qurashi has been killed in battle and announced a replacement. A spokesman for the group said Hashimi, an Iraqi, was killed "in combat with enemies of God", without elaborating on the date or circumstances of his death.

Speaking in an audio message, the spokesman identified the group's new leader as Abu al-Hussein al-Husseini al-Qurashi. Qurashi refers to a tribe of the Prophet Muhammed, from whom IS leaders must claim descent.

After a meteoric rise in Iraq and Syria in 2014 that saw it conquer vast swathes of territory, IS saw its self-proclaimed "caliphate" collapse under a wave of offensives. The Sunni Muslim extremist group's austere and terror-ridden rule was marked by beheadings and shootings.

It was defeated in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria two years later, but sleeper cells still carry out attacks in both countries.

Give anti-Taliban forces space to unify, say former Afghan leaders

Suhasini Haidar
DUSHANBE

Calling for a unified opposition to fight the Taliban, members of the former political leadership of the Afghan republic and "resistance" leaders met in neighbouring Tajikistan for a two-day conference that ended on Wednesday along with senior diplomats from the U.S. and the EU, in the first such event since the fall of Kabul to the Taliban in August 2021.

The 'Herat Security Dialogue', which included two former Foreign Ministers in the Karzai government, Dr. Rangin Spanta and Zalmay Rassoul), the NDS (National Directorate of Security) intelligence chief in the Karzai and Ghani government Rahmatallah Nabil, and a number of former Ministers and officials ousted by the Taliban, was attended by more than 100 delegates from the Afghan diaspora in exile and experts from India, Pakistan Iran and Russia.

On Wednesday, National Resistance Front (NRF) leader Ahmed Massoud, the son of the former Northern Alliance commander Ahmed Shah Massoud, joined the conference and was welcomed by the other leaders with applause. The NRF that is based in the mountains between Tajikistan and Afghanistan controls only the Panjshir valley, but in an interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Massoud said the NRF and allied anti-Taliban forces had growing support across the country.

Ahmed Massoud

'They want surrender'

"The Taliban doesn't respect Islamic principles or humanity," Mr. Massoud told the conference. "We tried to talk to them, but they have only asked us to surrender and stop fighting them. They are only interested in the surrender of the Afghan people."

Of particular concern, said the speakers at the conference, were the Taliban's growing restrictions on women and girls, including the latest decrees banning women from exercising at gyms and parks. Former MP Fawzia Koofi, who was Afghanistan's first woman presidential candidate in 2014, said half of Afghanistan's population was being pushed out of the labour force and of schools, which would lead to more poverty and hardship.

She also called for the international community to give "political space" for those opposing the Taliban akin to the Doha "headquarters" given to the Taliban a decade ago. Ms. Koofi, who fled to London after months of house arrest by the Taliban in Kabul last year, said women are at the forefront of protests against the Taliban, but were facing "repressive" crackdowns.

The Dialogue follows a conference of Afghan leaders in Vienna in September this year, which did not include international speakers. Speaking about India's role, the organiser of the conference, Davood Moradian, said many Afghans expected more support from New Delhi for non-Taliban forces.

"Presuming this is India's policy, every policy has a consequence, and for India abandoning its historical allies will have consequences," Mr. Moradian said, referring to the perception here that India is engaging the Taliban but not the former leadership.

India has sent a senior MEA diplomat to Afghanistan for talks with Taliban Ministers and has reopened a "technical" mission in Kabul this year to oversee food and medical aid, but has not yet opened visas for Afghans.

At the conference, Mr. Nabil briefed the delegates on potential security threats from Afghanistan, where he claimed that al Qaeda-Indian Subcontinent (AQ-IS) and Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) were bringing in more foreign fighters, adding that Pakistani groups like the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad have shifted some of their bases to Afghanistan. The Taliban have claimed that violence in Afghanistan has lowered under their regime, but a growing number of attacks are being reported daily.

(The writer travelled to Dushanbe at the invitation of the Herat Security Dialogue organisers)

10 killed in bombing of Afghan school

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

The blast took place at Al Jihad Madrassa in Samangan, an Uzbek-majority province

A bomb blast hit a religious school in northern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing at least 10 students, a Taliban official said.

The explosion went off at around the time of afternoon prayers at the Al Jihad Madrassa in Aybak, capital of Samangan province, a resident of the city said. Most of the students at the school are young boys, said the resident. Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Nafi Takor said a number of students were wounded in the attack. Samangan province has a majority population of ethnic Uzbeks.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the Afghan affiliate of the Islamic State group has been waging a campaign of violence that escalated since the Taliban took power in August 2021.

China to suppress 'hostile forces' soon

Associated Press
BEIJING

China's ruling Communist Party has vowed to "resolutely crack down on infiltration and sabotage activities by hostile forces," following the largest street demonstrations in decades staged by citizens fed up with strict anti-virus restrictions.

The statement from the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission released late on Tuesday comes amid a massive show of force by security services to deter a recurrence of the protests that broke out over the weekend in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and several other cities.

While it did not directly address the protests, the statement serves as a reminder of the party's determination to enforce its rule. The number of people who have been detained at the demonstrations is not known.

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NOTIFICATION

Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) invites applications for the post of Assistant Professors in various Departments. Candidates are requested to see the details for eligibility and application from **www.nims.edu.in.** Contact Tel. No. **040-23489353.**

Sd/- DEAN

R.O. No.: 1008-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, TWAD BOARD, MADURAI.

TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE No.1 /Dt. 29.11.2022 (E- Submission)

Ref : This Office IFB:No. 12 / F.Dindigul Retro /JJM /SDO I/ CW /Dt.25.10.2022

The last date of receipt & opening of tender called for in the reference cited is extended as under :

Name of Work : **Jal Jeevan Mission** - Retrofitting of Existing CWSS for Dindigul Corporation, 6 town panchayats and 636 rural habitations in Dindigul District with river Cauvery as source for the Construction Period of 18 months and operation and Maintenance for 60 months in MLD Basis

Last date for receipt of tenders	**Upto 15.00 hours on 06.12.2022**
Opening of tenders	**at 15.30 hours on 07.12.2022**

The other terms and conditions remain unaltered.

DIPR/ 5315 /TENDER/2022

Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai

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भारत सरकार टकसाल, मुंबई
INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT, MUMBAI

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भारत प्रतिभूति मुद्रण तथा निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड की इकाई
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मिनी-रत्न श्रेणी । सीपीएसई (भारत सरकार के पूर्ण स्वामीत्वाधीन)
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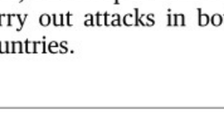
NOTICE

BOOKING OF "175th Years of IIT Roorkee" Commemorative Coin Set.

India Government Mint, Mumbai (A unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.) is pleased to notify booking of commemorative coin sets in Proof and Uncirculated varieties of following themes.



Theme	Proof (Rs.)	UNC (Rs.)
a) 175th Years of IIT Roorkee (Denomination of `175) – Folder Packing	3580.00	3065.00
b) 175th Years of IIT Roorkee (Denomination of `175) – Wooden Packing	4015.00	3730.00

The booking period will be from 01.12.2022 to 15.01.2023. The coin sets can be booked online on our website **www.indiagovtmint.in** Alternately, the coin sets can be ordered offline by submitting an order form available on our website or by giving details on plain paper viz. Name and full address in capital letters, details of coin sets required along with the prescribed price as stated above.

The payment for offline booking is to be made by Demand Draft only drawn on any scheduled bank in favour of **'INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT (UNIT OF SPMCIL) COLLECTION A/C'** payable at Mumbai. The coins will be delivered through India Post within Two (2) months from the date of closure of booking and no cancellation is allowed once order. Grievances of non-receipt of coin should be brought to the notice of concern department within ninety days from the date of order. The Mint will not be responsible for the delay or loss of the coin sets dispatched by post and the claim for substitute coin sets will not be undertaken unless and until the postal authorities refund the insured amount.

For other detailed terms and conditions and online booking please visit customer corner section of our web site:**www.indiagovtmint.in**

-Sd-
Dy. General Manager (Marketing)
For Chief General Manager

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An Institute of Design, Management & Technology
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Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

प्रवेश /ADMISSIONS 2023

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स्नातक / स्नातकोत्तर के लिए प्रवेश परीक्षा की तिथि - 5 फरवरी, 2023
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INBRIEF

TKM vice chairman Vikram S. Kirloskar passes away

Eminent industrialist and Toyota Kirloskar Motor vice chairman Vikram S. Kirloskar, who was instrumental in bringing Japanese auto major Toyota to India, died due to a heart attack on Tuesday. He was 64. Mr. Kirloskar is survived by wife Geetanjali Kirloskar and daughter Manasi Kirloskar. He had held leadership positions in industry bodies such as SIAM and CII. PTI

NDTV shares continue to rally for fifth day, hit upper circuit

Shares of NDTV continued to rally for the fifth day on Wednesday, further climbing 5% to hit its highest permissible trading limit for the day. Founders Prannoy Roy and his wife Radhika Roy resigned as the directors of promoter group vehicle RRPR Holding Pvt. Ltd. as the Adani Group neared takeover of the media firm. The stock climbed 5% to ₹447.70 – its upper circuit limit – on the BSE in morning trade. At the NSE, it jumped 5% to 446.30, its highest permissible trading limit for the day. In five days, the stock has rallied 24.7%. RRPR, acquired by the Adani Group, held 29.18% stake in NDTV. PTI

NMDC reverses cut, raises ore prices by ₹300 a tonne

NMDC has increased the price of iron ore Lump and Fines by ₹300 each per tonne with immediate effect. Lump Ore price has been fixed at ₹4,100, while that of Fines at ₹2,910, both per tonne and with effect from November 30, India's largest iron ore producer said in a filing with the exchange on Wednesday. The revision reverses NMDC's November 17 reduction, by ₹300 each per tonne, and comes weeks after export duty on the Lumps and Fines with less than 58% Fe content was withdrawn and the duty on those with more than 58% Fe content was reduced to 30% from 50%. The Centre had also said exports of iron ore pellets would attract no export duty.

India's core sector growth braked to 0.1% in October

Natural gas output shrank for a fourth straight month, contracting 4.2%; cement production contracted 4.3% from a year earlier and was also 2.4% below the level of output in September

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's eight core sectors' output growth virtually ground to a halt in October, slowing sharply to just 0.1%, from 7.8% in September, with cement and refinery products slipping into contraction and electricity generation rising a mere 0.4%.

Economists reckoned October saw the weakest core sector performance since February 2021, partly driven by base effects. Steel output rose 4% in October, reflecting the slowest growth since July, while coal and fertilizer production grew 3.6% and 5.4%, respectively.

Cement production shrank 4.3% from the year-earlier period and was also 2.4% below the September 2022 output. Coal, fertilizers, cement and electricity had clocked double-digit growth in September.

The Index of Core Industries, which constitutes about 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was unchanged month-on-month at 138, signalling a flat sequential trend.

Natural gas output shrank for the fourth successive month, by 4.2%, the sharpest decline in at least 12 months. Crude oil output dipped for the fifth month in a row, but the contraction was the smallest in four months at 2.2%.

While the data signal weakening activity, last October's high base of 8.7% growth also had a role, said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis.

"The performance... does not signal a strong recovery in the months to come," he added.

Weakening core
Economists term performance as weakest since February 2021

- Steel output rose 4% in October, reflecting the slowest growth since July
- Cement output shrank 4.3% from the year-earlier period
- Coal, fertilizers, cement and electricity had clocked double-digit output growth in September 2022

Fiscal deficit touches 45.6% of full-year Budget target

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government's fiscal deficit in end-October touched 45.6% of the full-year Budget Estimate, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts on Wednesday.

This compares with 36.3% seen a year earlier.

For FY23, the fiscal deficit of the government is estimated to be ₹16.61 lakh crore or 6.4% of the GDP.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA, said the 14% contraction in non-tax revenues, combined with the 10% rise in revenue expenditure, and the robust 62% expansion in capex, widened fiscal deficit to ₹7.6 lakh crore from ₹5.5 lakh crore seen a year earlier.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	63,100	0.67
US Dollar	81.30	0.51
Gold	53,300	0.87
Brent oil	85.3	-0.22

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3917.90	39.50
Adani Ports	881.00	2.80
Apollo Hosp	4726.40	7.20
Asian Paints	3175.15	40.10
Axis Bank	901.25	8.70
Bajaj Auto	3750.70	90.60
Bajaj Finserv	1626.50	-5.50
Bajaj Finance	6720.95	-13.20
Bharti Airtel	848.75	12.90
BPCL	341.15	2.10
Britannia Ind	4362.30	76.95
Cipla	1139.65	18.50
Coal India	227.25	0.05
Divis Lab	3404.70	32.00
Dr Reddys Lab	4487.15	33.80
Eicher Motors	3484.50	68.40
Grasim Ind	1759.75	40.60
HCL Tech	1120.80	-8.15
HDFC	2692.55	27.30
HDFC Bank	1608.45	10.60
HDFC Life	590.60	5.75
Hero MotoCorp	2851.90	23.65
Hindalco	450.70	14.75
Hind Unilever	2684.35	50.15
ICICI Bank	952.90	6.15
IndusInd Bank	1167.80	-12.80
Infosys	1634.95	5.90
ITC	340.00	-2.30
JSW Steel	743.40	10.85
Kotak Bank	1947.05	21.50
L&T	2074.85	24.30
M&M	1305.60	48.50
Maruti Suzuki	8974.15	63.95
NestleIndia	20183.85	62.65
NTPC	172.20	2.05
ONGC	141.10	0.85
PowerGrid Corp	224.00	4.65
Reliance Ind	2731.35	19.15
SBI Life	1282.90	24.50
State Bank	602.45	-6.10
Sun Pharma	1046.05	-3.80
TataConsumerProduct	818.05	13.00
Tata Motors	439.40	6.25
Tata Steel	107.65	1.55
TCS	3390.80	-6.55
Tech Mahindra	1077.00	2.45
Titan	2653.00	39.25
UltraTech Cement	7077.00	148.10
UPL	789.70	14.85
Wipro	406.90	1.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 30

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.22	81.54
Euro	84.16	84.50
British Pound	97.49	97.88
Japanese Yen (100)	58.58	58.81
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.54
Swiss Franc	85.50	85.84
Singapore Dollar	59.42	59.69
Canadian Dollar	60.06	60.32
Malaysian Ringitt	18.27	18.36
Australian Dollar	54.69	54.91

Source:Indian Bank

Sitharaman sees govt. capital spending spurring growth

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India plans to sustain its high growth rate through more government capital spending but will also focus on health and education next year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Reuters NEXT conference on Wednesday.

Ms. Sitharaman was speaking amid consultations for the next Budget, which is scheduled for February 1. It will be the last full Budget before national elections in 2024.

"We would continue to push capital expenditure, and that I'm saying even as I'm preparing for the next Budget," she said.

"We are well on course on meeting this year's target. The States have shown extraordinary absorption capacity for taking the monies and spending on capital assets."

The Centre sees the "capital expenditure route as one of those which can guarantee good growth," she said. India has budgeted capital spending of ₹7.5 trillion for the current fiscal year, which ends on March 31.

Ms. Sitharaman said she looked forward to "a very good ... growing Indian economy this year and the next". She was speaking ahead of the publication of July-September growth data, which showed the economy growing 6.3% on an annual basis.

Rupee to stabilise

Ms. Sitharaman said the government was comfortable with the country's current foreign exchange reserves but believed that the rupee would stabilise without much intervention from the central bank.

The private sector is starting to raise investments, she said, which augurs well for the economy that is projected to grow at 7% this fiscal year, despite many other economies suffering because of the Russia-Ukraine war.

New digital lending norms kick in today

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank's modified guidelines on digital lending for customers who had taken loans prior to September 2 will come into force from Thursday. The guidelines seek to protect customers from unethical loan recovery practices.

In order to ensure a smooth transition, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had given time till November 30 to Regulated Entities (REs) to put in place adequate systems and processes to ensure compliance of the guidelines for digital loans sanctioned before September 2.

As per an RBI circular, the digital loan providers were required to comply with the modified norms for all new loans from September 2. Under the new norms, all loan disbursals and repayments are required to be executed only between the bank accounts of the borrower and regulated entities (such as banks and NBFCs) without any pass-through / pool account of the Lending Service Providers (LSPs).

"Any fees, charges, etc, payable to LSPs in the credit intermediation process shall be paid directly by RE and not by the borrower", the RBI said while conveying the regulatory stance.

Discoms' outstanding dues dip by ₹24,689 crore

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Power on Wednesday said outstanding dues of electricity distribution firms (discoms) towards gencos, transcos and traders had come down by ₹24,680 crore to ₹1,13,269 crore in the last six months.

"With the implementation of Electricity (LPS and Related Matters) Rules, 2022, remarkable improvement has been seen in recovery of outstanding dues of suppliers including generating companies, transmission companies and traders," the ministry said.

'NBFCs to grow AUM by 14% in next fiscal'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are expected to grow their assets under management (AUM) 13-14% next fiscal, or twice the 7% pace logged last fiscal, Crisil said in a report.

This is due to robust credit demand piggybacking the ongoing economic rebound, the rating agency added.

"Stronger balance sheets with higher provisioning and lower leverage, receding asset-quality concerns, and steadily normalising funding access provide a solid foundation for NBFCs to capitalise on credit demand," said Gurpreet Chhatwal, MD, Crisil Ratings.

> Competition from banks will remain intense and the rising interest rate environment will exert pressure on margins
> **GURPREET CHHATWAL,** MD, Crisil Ratings

"Competition from banks will remain intense and the rising interest rate environment will exert pressure on margins and limit competitive ability, especially in the largest traditional segments of home loans and new vehicle finance," he said.

'Iran not lifting Indian tea, awaits rupee deal'

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Tea exporters on Wednesday said that Iran, a major buyer of the product from the country, was not filling up mandatory proforma meant for purchases as they were waiting for finalisation of a rupee-payment deal.

Secretary-general of Indian Tea Association Arijit Raha said, "We are seeing reports that Iran has stopped importing tea from India."

"We have informed the Tea Board which is looking into the matter," Mr. Raha added.

Telcos seek framework norms to levy usage charge on OTTs

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Telecom operators' industry association COAI has written to the Centre to set up a licensing and regulatory framework to charge a 'usage fee' from big Internet-based calling and messaging apps like WhatsApp, Signal and Google Duo.

In a letter to Telecom Secretary K. Rajaraman last week, the Cellular Operators Association of India Director General S.P. Kochhar said that charges may be limited based on usage of the network without burdening over-the-top (OTT) players in micro, small and medium enterprise segment.

The Department of Telecom has proposed to define OTT players providing call and messaging service as telecom service providers (TSPs).

COAI said OTT players should pay TSPs for using the telecom network for providing their OTT services to customers in a fair and equitable manner by way of an equivalent of 'Usage Charge' on the basis of mutual agreement.

'Norms will help avoid disputes'

"There may be instances wherein the OTT players and the TSPs may not agree mutually on 'Usage Charge'. If a mutual agreement is not reached, then an appropriate licensing and regulatory framework should be in place which governs the contribution of OTT players towards creation of network infrastructure," Mr. Kochhar said.

He added that the COAI objective was certainly not to discourage the OTT services as indeed they generate massive traffic on the network set-up by the TSPs.

At the same time, these OTTs providers continue to gain massive direct and indirect benefits at the expense of telecom operators, he said.

"Therefore, we believe that these OTTs must reasonably compensate the TSPs for using the network established by the TSPs," Mr. Kochhar said.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 56/2022-23/KWA/PHC/TVLA,57/2022-23/KWA/PHC/TVLA,58/2022-23/KWA/PHC/TVLA, **1)** JJM -5th SLSSC- -Supplying and laying distribution system and providing 1201FHTCs (Zone1) in Kozhencherry Panchayat including road restoration works. **2)** JJM-5th SWSM Supplying and Laying distribution networks and providing 8983 HTCs including road restoration works in Madappally Panchayath. **3)** JJM - 5th SWSM - Providing 7754 HTCs for the remaining households by laying conveyance mains and distribution networks including road restoration works in Kurichy Panchayath. **EMD :** Rs. 200000, 500000, 500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 11800, 17700, 17700; **Last Date for submitting Tender : 27-12-2022, 02:00:pm, Phone : 04692600162, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Pathanamthitta

KWA-JB-GL-6-1147-2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS

TENDER NOTICE FOR PURCHASE OF 40s K Grey Cotton Cone Yarn, 40s K Grey Cotton Hank Yarn and 60s K Grey Cotton Cone Yarn

Sealed tenders with two cover system in the prescribed format are invited only from the interested eligible parties for the Purchase of 40s K Grey Cotton Cone Yarn, 40s K Grey Cotton Hank Yarn and 60s K Grey Cotton Cone Yarn for Distribution of Sarees and Dhoties scheme Pongal 2023.

Sl. No.	Variety of yarn	Required Quantity in MT	Required Earnest Money Deposit in (Rs.)	Sale period	Last date and time for receipt of tender	Date and time of opening of Tender	Supply Period
1.	40s K Grey Cotton Cone Yarn	1000.00	5,00,000/-	01.12.2022 to 08.12.2022 upto 10.30 a.m	08.12.2022 upto 11.00 a.m	08.12.2022 at 12.00 noon	10 days
2.	40s K Grey Cotton Hank Yarn	300.00					10 days
3.	60s K Grey Cotton Cone Yarn	80.00					10 Days

Eligibility of the Tenderer and Other conditions are stipulated in the Tender Schedule. **1.**The tender Schedule can be downloaded at **free of cost** from Government tender website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and used for bidding. **2. If requested to send through Post:** By Demand Draft – Rs.5,700/- in favour of "Yarn Committee for FDS 2014" payable at Chennai City (inclusive of 12% GST).

Interested tenderers are requested to submit the tender schedule duly filled, in separate covers and it should be sent in a sealed envelope super scribing "Tender for Purchase of 40s K Grey Cotton Cone Yarn, 40s K Grey Cotton Hank Yarn and 60s K Grey Cotton Cone Yarn" addressed to "The Joint Director(Uniforms)/Tender Inviting Authority, O/o Commissioner of Handlooms, Kuralagam, II Floor, Chennai - 600 104". Contact: Joint Director (Uniforms), Telephone: 044-25358715, Fax: 044-25351177 Email ID: tenderwing2020@gmail.com

Joint Director (Uniforms) / Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/5304/Tender/2022

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)
Sewerage Department, Pimpri, Pune-411018.

Request for Proposal (RFP)
For
'' Appointment of Technical Services Provider (TSP) and Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for Sewer Drain Network, Storm Water Drain Network and Rehabilitation of Nallas of Pimpri-Chinchwad City.''
E-Tender Notice No. 09/01/2022-2023

Commissioner Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation invites online Tender (e-Tender) in B-2 form on tender portal of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation at https://mahatenders.gov.in.

In that context, PCMC invites interested entities having experience as envisaged in the RFP document, to submit their proposal. Interested entities can download the RFP document form the website https://mahatenders.gov.in Interested entities shall make online payment towards the cost of RFP document and Bid security / earnest money deposit as provided in the RFP document at the time of submission of its proposal through the e-tendering system.

A pre-Bid conference is arranged on 15/12/2022 at the Head office of PCMC. The last date of submission of Bid will be 28/12/2022.

SD /-
(Shekhar Singh)
Commissioner,
Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
Pimpri, Pune-411018.

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जा.क्र.जनि/2/कावि/ 657/2022.
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Panel moots gas pricing freedom from 2026

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Kirit Parikh panel also suggested including natural gas in the one-nation one-tax GST regime

A government-appointed gas price review panel led by Kirit Parikh on Wednesday, submitted its report to the government, recommending a floor and ceiling price for legacy fields and complete pricing freedom starting January 1, 2026.

Currently, fields in deep sea or in high-temperature, high-pressure zones are governed by a different formula that includes an element of imported LNG cost, but the same is also subject to a ceiling.

"Such producers have marketing and pricing freedom which is constrained by an upper bound fixed by the government. We have suggested continuing with the cap for 3 years and giving total pricing freedom from Jan. 1, 2026, removing the cap," he said.

The panel also suggested including natural gas in the one-nation one-tax regime of GST by subsuming excise duty charged by the Centre and varying rates of VAT levied by State governments.

VoltUp to raise $25 mn to fund expansion

Yuthika Bhargava
NEW DELHI

Mumbai-based Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) provider VoltUp is looking to raise up to $25 million, or ₹200 crore, as it looks to expand operations to at least 30 cities with 500 battery-swapping stations in the next financial year.

Currently, the start-up has presence in 10 cities, including Jaipur, Mumbai, Delhi and Lucknow, and has 90 swapping stations. Each station has a slot to accommodate 12 batteries.

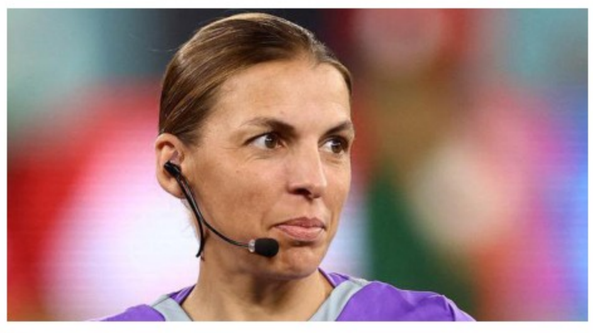
"We are a bootstrapped firm and have invested ₹40-45 crore till now and raised ₹60 crore via debt," said co-founder and CEO Siddharth Kabra.

"We have now begun the process to raise funds and are looking at about $20-25 million to fund our expansion," he added.

Mr. Kabra said according to conservative estimates, at least 10 million vehicles with swappable batteries would be sold in the next eight years.

WOMEN POWER

Frappart to make World Cup history as first woman referee



French referee Stephanie Frappart will become the first woman to take charge of a men's World Cup game when she handles Germany vs. Costa Rica on Thursday. FIFA also picked two women as assistants to Frappart — Neuza Back of Brazil and Mexico's Karen Diaz Medina — to complete an all-female refereeing team on the field.

SETBACK

Pulisic injured during Iran game, diagnosed with pelvic contusion

U.S. forward Christian Pulisic was listed as day to day after sustaining a pelvic injury playing against Iran on Tuesday. The Chelsea striker was substituted at the start of the second half and taken to a hospital for tests. The U.S. Soccer Federation said Pulisic was diagnosed with a pelvic contusion.

AT LOGGERHEADS

Cameroon goalkeeper Onana sent home for disciplinary reasons

Cameroon goalkeeper Andre Onana was sent home from the World Cup for disciplinary reasons after a dispute with coach Rigobert Song. He was "temporarily suspended" from the team, the Cameroon soccer federation said in a statement on Tuesday, and the suspension would cover the rest of the tournament.

NOTHING MAJOR

Pele hospitalised again but there's no emergency, says daughter

Football legend Pele has been hospitalised in Sao Paulo again, but there is "no emergency," his daughter said on Wednesday. This is the latest health issue for the 82-year-old, who has been undergoing treatment for colon tumour. "He is in hospital for regulating medication," Pele's daughter Kely Nascimento wrote on Instagram.

Australia makes profligate Danes pay

Leckie sends the Socceroos through to the round of 16 for the first time since 2006; Denmark has the majority of possession but it counts for nothing as the forwards flounder repeatedly against some brave defending

FIFA WORLD CUP

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

Denmark, in a must-win World Cup game, kept prodding at Australia, creating an intricate wave of midfield passing and playing the regular long balls over the top as well. But a goal proved elusive.

The Aussies made the Danes pay for their profligacy as Mathew Leckie received a ball from Riley McGree at the hour mark and bamboozled Joakim Maehle twice before scoring past the outstretched Kasper Schmeichel.

The second win of the campaign took the Socceroos to the knockouts despite Tunisia's surprise 1-0 win over France.

The Danes enjoyed 58% possession and had six attempts in the first 45 minutes. Mathias Jensen had one of the two shots on target as he caught one of those high balls and his shot from inside the box was theatrically punched out by Matt Ryan with 11 minutes played.

A minute earlier, Kye Rowles came up with a quick interception from six yards to stop Jesper Lindstrom from shooting.

With Martin Braithwaite its third leading man in as many games, Denmark's play in the final third lacked incisiveness. Christian Eriksen too tried his luck in the 29th minute, but to no avail.

Australia restarted with a little more positive intent but Irvine's first-time effort after a pass from Riley McGree went sailing to the stands behind.

Denmark thought it had a penalty when Harry Souttar pushed Kasper Dolberg. The referee initially pointed to the spot, but the linesman had correctly spotted Dolberg in an offside position.

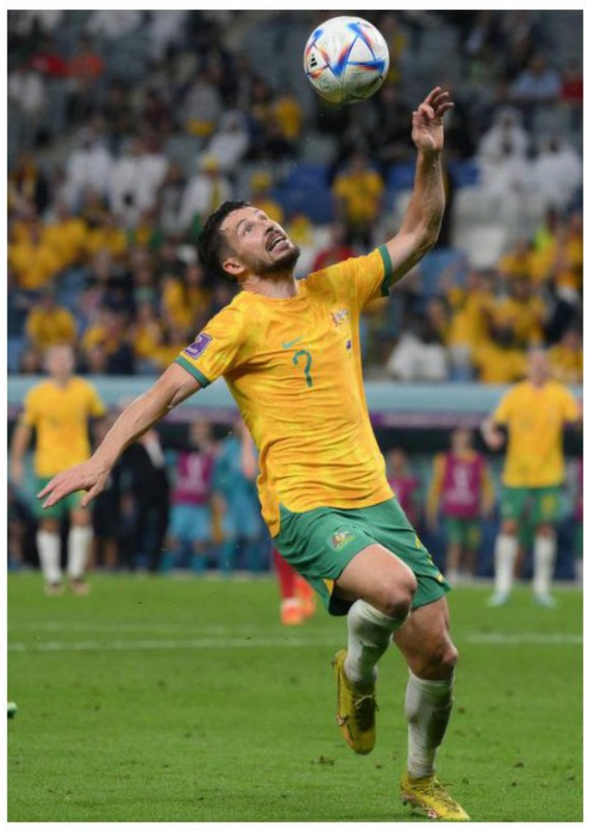
And the Aussies celebrated a rare foray to the knockout rounds for the first time since 2006.

The results: Group D: Australia 1 (Leckie 60) bt Denmark 0; Tunisia 1 (Khazri 58) bt France 0.

Final Group D Standings

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
France (Q)	3	2	0	1	3	6
Australia (Q)	3	2	0	1	-1	6
Tunisia	3	1	1	1	0	4
Denmark	3	0	1	2	-2	1

Q: QUALIFIED



Standout show: Leckie's composed finish at the end of a counterattack was all that Australia needed. AFP

Rashford masterclass puts England in the knockouts

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

Marcus Rashford scored twice and then knelt pointing to the sky for a personal dialogue with a friend he had just lost to cancer.

The England manager didn't know about the striker's loss, the professional in him keeping the personal out as England played its best game in the World Cup so far. "I didn't have any idea (about Rashford's loss). So that didn't manifest itself in his body language recently, it was not something he had mentioned to us, and I just heard it outside," said Gareth Southgate at the post-match press conference.

Southgate came out with a rejigged 4-3-2-1 formation with skipper Harry Kane the lone man at the helm, but as the game progressed Phil Foden and Rashford moved upfront on either side of the captain and there was a midfield triangle with Declan Rice at its base. The overload was too much for Wales as England had seven shots on target and went home with a 3-0 win to set up a pre-quarterfinal date with Senegal.

Rashford's goal came five minutes into the second half as he picked his spot perfectly, angling the ball in through where a darting Harry Maguire stood ahead of the Wales wall improperly erected. It was two in two as Foden added the next as Wales lost the ball to a snapping Rashford on the right touchline.

The ball came to Kane, and he just pushed it towards his younger mate who had the easiest of tap-ins. Dany Ward's night was about to become more miserable as Rashford brought down another ball over the Wales defenders, quickly skated inside the box as a sidestep took Connor Roberts out of the equation and his left-footer sneaked in between Ward's flapping legs.

Meanwhile, Christian Pulisic scored while crashing headfirst into the goalkeeper in the 38th minute and the USA advanced with a 1-0 win over Iran.

The results: Group B: Iran 0 lost to USA 1 (Pulisic 38); Wales 0 lost to England 3 (Rashford 50, 68, Foden 51).

Final Group B Standings

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
England (Q)	3	2	1	0	7	7
USA (Q)	3	1	2	0	1	5
Iran	3	1	0	2	-3	3
Wales	3	0	1	2	-5	1

Q: QUALIFIED

Germany has its back to the wall again; no such worry for Spain

Direct approach: With Germany chasing a win, coach Flick might opt to start with traditional forward Fullkrug. REUTERS

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

Hansi Flick's Germany is still flickering and has yet to light up this World Cup and showcase its big-tournament pedigree that has often seen it through even when the team has not played its best football. Flick is still moulding this group as Germany again looks to rebuild post a disappointing 2018 World Cup and Euro 2020.

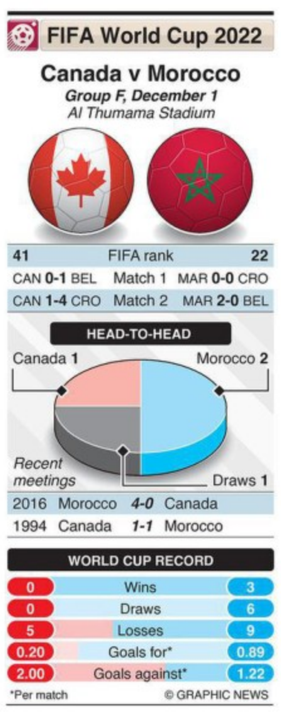
Germany must beat Costa Rica, which had humbled Japan. "We have a lot of humility. We have one point and minus one goal difference so there is no reason to be really euphoric. I think against Costa Rica we will spend a lot of time in the opponent's box compared to against Spain. It will come down to how we play in the box," said Thomas Muller, figuring in his fourth World Cup.

But he has lacked that cutting edge and the goals that came in abundance in 2010 and 2014 are missing again like in 2018. Germany, then, was knocked out from the opening round and a similar fate here would be disastrous. Niclas Fullkrug and Leroy Sane, substitutes in the game against Spain, might get to start if Flick opts for a more direct approach to goal.

A draw or a win would be enough for Luis Enrique's Spain while Japan's run can continue with a win while a draw and a similar result between Costa Rica and Germany will also ensure progress. A Costa Rica win over Germany, however, will force Japan to get a positive result in this last group game.

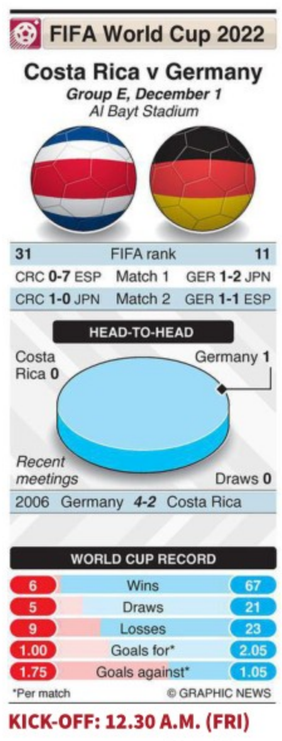
Last year's finalist Croatia and Morocco just need a draw to pass the challenges from a tough Group F. But a defeat to Belgium, desperate for that win, would leave Croatia at the mercy of an improbable win for an eliminated Canada over Morocco, second in the group after a historic win over Belgium.

For Kevin De Bruyne and a fractured Belgian dressing room, a draw would bring goal difference into play if Walid Regragui's African side loses to the north Americans.



KICK-OFF: 8.30 p.m.

KICK-OFF: 8.30 P.M.



KICK-OFF: 12.30 A.M. (FRI)

KICK-OFF: 12.30 A.M. (FRI)

Final match washed out; New Zealand wins ODI series

INDIA IN NZ

Press Trust of India
CHRISTCHURCH

India lost the three-match ODI series against New Zealand 0-1 after rain washed out the third and final game here on Wednesday.

Chasing 220, New Zealand was cruising at 104 for one in 18 overs, 50 runs ahead of the Duckworth-Lewis par score, when rain interrupted the game yet again in the white-ball series.

Kane Williamson and Co., needing just 116 runs from 32 overs, though, had to be content with a No Result as the game was two overs short to be technically called complete.

Having won the first ODI in Auckland by seven wickets, New Zealand thus sealed the series 1-0.

The second match in Hamilton, too, was abandoned after two stoppages.

Overall, only two matches in the six-game white-ball series produced a result, exposing the poor planning on part of the authorities concerned.

The series was organised less than a week after the T20 World Cup in Australia.

The scores:
India 219 in 47.3 overs (Shreyas Iyer 49, Washington Sundar 51, Adam Milne 3/57) vs New Zealand 104/1 in 18 overs (Finn Allen 57). Rain ended play. No Result.
Toss: NZ; **Player-of-the-Series:** Latham; *New Zealand won the three-match series 1-0.*

Eng-Pak Test: virus likely to affect start

Agence France-Presse
RAWALPINDI

The first Test between England and Pakistan could be postponed after around half of the touring side's players, including captain Ben Stokes, were struck down by an unspecified virus a day before the match.

The Pakistan cricket board said on Wednesday that it was discussing next steps with the England and Wales Cricket Board.

"The PCB and ECB are in discussions regarding the commencement of the 1st #PAKvENG Test as some England players are down with viral infection," the board said on *Twitter*.

"The PCB continues to monitor the situation, is in contact with the ECB and will provide further updates in due course."

A ceremony for the two captains to unveil the series trophy was postponed to earlier in the day to give Stokes time to recover.

Fitzpatrick hits the bullseye twice

Top shot: Champion Fitzpatrick, centre, with Woods and Hero MotoCorp's Pawan Munjal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HERO CHALLENGE

Ashwin Achal
NASSAU

Eager fans caught a glimpse of Tiger Woods in action, even if it was in a fun event here. Having pulled out of the Hero World Challenge (HWC) due to a foot injury, Woods managed a few swings in the 'Hero Shot' at Albany.

The players took their best shots at a floating target in the pond between the ninth and 18th greens at Albany.

Tournament host Woods, however, was eliminated in the early stages of the competition that saw Matt Fitzpatrick defeat young South Korean Tom Kim in the championship round to take the title.

Fitzpatrick received the biggest applause when he twice found the bullseye hit on the tricky, 87-yard shot into the wind.

England's Fitzpatrick got past a field which included Justin Thomas, Max Homa, Tommy Fleetwood, Billy Horschel, Woods and Kim.

The first round of the 'Hero Shot' featured each player taking six shots at the target, with balls landing in an outer ring worth 250 points, those coming to rest in the inner circle worth 500 and any ball splashing down in the two-foot-diameter cup worth 1,000. The sixth ball in each round – the 'Hero ball' – was worth double points.

(The author is in Nassau on invitation from Hero MotoCorp).

The players took their best shots at a floating target in the pond between the ninth and 18th greens at Albany; tournament host Woods was eliminated in the early stages

INBRIEF

Labuschagne gives Australia opening day's honours

Marnus Labuschagne led Australia's domination of the West Indies on Wednesday with 154 not out as his side cruised to 293 for two at stumps on day one of the first Test at Perth Stadium.

The scores: Australia 293/2 in 90 overs (Marnus Labuschagne (batting) 154, Usman Khawaja 65, Steve Smith (batting) 59 vs West Indies. **Toss**: Australia.

Unnati, Anmol and Dhruv cruise into pre-quarters

Top seed Unnati Hooda, Dhruv Negi and Anmol Kharb sailed into the pre-quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia under-17 and 15 junior championships in Nonthaburi, Thailand, on Wednesday. Unnati won 21-7, 21-11 against Indonesia's Dea Nur Fadilla while Anmol scored a 21-12, 21-19 win over Thailand's Ratnacha Sompoch. Dhruv was stretched by Thailand's Panya Phutthiphraisakul before winning 21-14, 17-21, 21-15.

Deshwal, Ajith on the prowl as Panthers tame Bulls

Raiders Arjun Deshwal (13 points) and V. Ajith (6) were on fire as Jaipur Pink Panthers proved a runaway winner (45-25) against Bengaluru Bulls in the Pro Kabaddi League in Hyderabad on Wednesday. For Bulls, Bharat registered another Super 10. Dabang Delhi tied with Tamil Thalaivas 37-37 in the second match of the day.

Jaiswal and Abhimanyu put India-A in control

Yashasvi Jaiswal (145, 226b, 20x4, 1x6) and skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran (142, 255b, 11x4, 1x6) added 283 for the opening wicket as India-A made 404 for five on day two of its four-day game verses Bangladesh-A at Cox's Bazar on Wednesday.

Daruvala is Mahindra Racing's reserve driver in Formula E

India's Jehan Daruvala has joined Mahindra Racing as a reserve driver for the 2022-23 Formula E championship. Ahead of India's debut on the Formula E calendar with a race in Hyderabad in February 2023, Daruvala will add a local connection to the only Indian team on the Formula E grid.

Former State hockey player Rajendra passes away

Former Karnataka State hockey player V.R. Rajendra passed away in Bengaluru on Wednesday. He was 62. Attached to the BEL Sports Club for more than 20 years, Rajendra once donned the role of the Karnataka women's team coach. His brothers, V.R. Yogendra and V.R. Prakash, were also hockey players. The KSHA condoled his death.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7.50 a.m.

Pakistan vs England: 1st Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 a.m.

I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Golf: Hero World Challenge: : Eurosport (SD & HD), 12 a.m. onwards (Friday)

FIFA World Cup 2022: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

India stuns Aussies with last-gasp goal

Akashdeep strikes just before the hooter to keep the five-match series alive; Harmanpreet, Abhishek and Shamsher also get on the scoresheet

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
ADELAIDE

A fighting India scored a last minute goal to stun World No. 1 Australia 4-3 in the third hockey Test and notch up its first win in 13 matches here on Wednesday.

It was a rare win for India against Australia, which had thrashed it 7-0 in the Birmingham Commonwealth Games final earlier this year.

The famous win also kept the five-match series alive with Australia leading 2-1. India had lost 4-5 and 4-7 in the first two Tests.

The fourth match will be played here on Saturday and the final one on Sunday. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (12th minute), Abhishek (47th), Shamsher Singh (57th) and Akashdeep Singh (60th) scored for India.

Back in it: Abhishek, second from right, equalised for India in the 47th minute. GETTY IMAGES

Australia's goals came from the sticks of Jack Welch (25th), skipper Aran Zalewski (32nd) and Nathan Ephraums (59th).

Patient start

Both the teams started the contest on a patient note, trying to keep their defence intact while looking for counter-attacks.

It was end-to-end stuff in the final few minutes of the game as Australia earned a penalty corner soon, but Sreejesh stood like wall in front of the Indian goal.

Akashdeep goal, which came 54 seconds from time, after being fed by Mandeep Singh, gave India a famous win.

Nihal Sarin takes sole lead, Humpy narrowly misses it

TATA OPEN CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOLKATA

Koneru Humpy came close to take the sole lead, but a few hours later, Nihal Sarin ensured at least one Indian was in front going into the final day of the rapid section of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament.

Though Nihal had a quiet 22-move draw with the second seed Wesley So of the United States in the sixth round at the National Library here on Wednesday, he secured the sole lead, as his nearest rival and overnight leader Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan was beaten by Arjun Erigaisi.

The Kerala lad had, earlier in the day, posted wins against compatriots D. Gukesh and S.P. Sethuraman. With three rounds remaining, he has 4.5 points, one more than Arjun and Mamyedarov.

"I managed to play well today and tried to put some pressure in the last game (against So), too," he said.

Good day: A quiet draw in the sixth round was enough for Nihal Sarin to pull ahead. DEBASISH BHADURI

Koneru Humpy admitted she was disappointed that she could manage only a draw after playing so well against Nana Dzagnidze despite being under time pressure.

"I should have played 'h4'," she said, referring to the king-side pawn push she missed right at the end.

Thanks to the draw, Dzagnidze is still in the lead with 4.5 points, half-a-point ahead of Humpy, R. Vaishali and the two Ukrainians Anna Ushenina and Mariya Muzychuk.

The results (Indians unless specified):

Sixth round: Open: Hikaru Nakamura (US) 3 bt Parham Maghsoodloo (IRI) 3; Arjun Erigaisi 3.5 bt Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) 3.5; Nihal Sarin 4.5 drew with Wesley So (US) 2.5; Nodirbek Abdusattarov (Uzb) 2.5 bt S.P. Sethuraman 1.5; Vidit Gujrathi 3 drew with D. Gukesh 3.

Women: Koneru Humpy 4 drew with Nana Dzagnidze (Geo) 4.5; Vantika Agrawl 1.5 drew with Dronavalli Harika 3.5; Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 2 drew with Anna Ushenina (Ukr) 4; Mariya Muzychuk (Ukr) 4 bt Oliwia Kiolbasa (Pol) 1.5; B. Savitha Shri 1 lost to R. Vaishali 4.

Railway teams continue their merry run

BASKETBALL

Sports Bureau

Railways won its matches in both the men's and women's sections in the second stage of the 72nd National basketball championship at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hall in Udaipur on Wednesday.

The results:

Men: Railways 91 (Palpreet Singh 20, Sahil 18, Jai Venkitesh 12, Rakesh Singh 12, Santhosh Mani 11) bt Delhi 62 (Prince Tyagi 16, Himanshu 12).
Punjab 67 bt Kerala 35.
Women: Kerala 88 bt Maharashtra 57.
Delhi 81 bt Uttar Pradesh 63 .
Railways 107 (Poonam Chaturvedi 14, Madhu Kumari 13, Dharshini 11, Nima Bhutia 11, Shruthi Aravind 10) bt West Bengal 58.
Karnataka 70 (Varsha Nandini 26, Niharika Reddy 14) bt Tamil Nadu 56 (Shobhana 25, Sruti 14).

Sharath Kamal receives Khel Ratna award

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Commonwealth Games star Sharath Kamal was presented the Khel Ratna award by the President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on Wednesday evening.

In an impressively crisp ceremony, the Dronacharya, Arjuna, Dhyan Chand, Tenzing Norgay, Khel Protsahan Puraskar and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad awards were presented at the Durbar Hall in about 45 minutes.

The awards, generally presented on hockey wizard Dhyan Chand's birthday (August 29), had to be delayed owing to the Commonwealth Games, this year. However, the timing was so good that everyone was able to attend in person, except for hockey player Deep Grace Ekka.

The President walked down the steps to present the Dhyan Chand award to Nir Bahadur Gurung, the para athlete who was on a wheelchair.

Memorable day: President Droupadi Murmu and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur with the sports awardees at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday. PTI

The Khel Ratna award carries ₹25 lakh cash prize. The Dronacharya and Arjuna award fetches ₹15 lakh, while the Dhyan Chand award, ₹10 lakh.

The awardees: Khel Ratna: Sharath Kamal (table tennis).

Dronacharya: Dinesh Jawahar Lad (cricket), Bimal Ghosh (football), Raj Singh (wrestling), Jiwanjot Singh Teja (archery), Mohammad Ali Qamar (boxing), Suma Shirur (para shooting) and Pradeep Maan (wrestling).

Arjuna: Seema Punia, Eldhose Paul, Avinash Sable (athletics); Lakshya Sen, H.S. Prannoy (badminton); Amit, NIkhat Zareen (boxing); Bhakti Kulkarni, R Praggnanandhaa (chess); Sushila Devi (judo), Sakshi Kumari (kabaddi), Nayan Saikia (lawn bowl), Sagar Ovhalkar (mallakhab), Elavenil Valarivan, Omprakash Mitharval (shooting); Sreeja Akula (table tennis), Viks Thakur (weightlifting), Anshu, Sarita (wrestling); Parveen (wushu), Manasi Joshi, Tarun Dhillon (para badminton); Swapnil Patil (para swimming) and Jerlin Anika (deaf badminton).

Dhyan Chand: Ashwini Akkunji (athletics), Dharamvir Singh (hockey), B.C. Suresh (kabaddi) and Nir Bahadur Gurung (para athletics).

Tenzing Norgay Adventure award: Naina Dhakad, Shubham Dhananjay Vanmali and Kunwar Bhawani Singh Samyal.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahar Puraskar: TransStadia Enterprises Private Limited; Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Ladakh Ski & Snowboard Association.

Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad trophy: Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

Ruturaj, Unadkat sizzle for Maharashtra, Saurashtra

HAZARE TROPHY

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Wednesday turned out to be captains' day out at Motera as Jaydev Unadkat and Ruturaj Gaikwad led from the front to set up a Saurashtra versus Maharashtra final in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Riding on Unadkat's fine left-arm pace bowling (4/26), Saurashtra rolled over Karnataka with a facile five-wicket win with almost 14 hours to spare in the first semifinal at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Run feast

While Unadkat and Co. had left Karnataka batters perplexed in seam-friendly conditions in the main stadium, on a flat pitch at the adjoining B ground, Ruturaj (168, 126b, 18x4, 6x6) continued his run-feast for Maharashtra in Ankeet Bawane's (110, 89b, 10x4, 2x6) company to put on a gargantuan total.

Despite Assam's spirited success chase, Rajvardhan Hangargekar's (4/66) raw pace meant Assam fell short by 12 runs.

Key wicket: Unadkat celebrates Mayank's dismissal. M. VEDHAN

In the absence of an injured Chetan Sakariya, Unadkat set the tone for the day with an opening spell that read 6-0-11-2.

Unadkat accounted for his Karnataka counterpart Mayank Agarwal and B.R. Sharath through slip catches. He came back towards the end to dismiss all-rounder K. Gowtham for a duck and opener R. Samarth (88, 135b, 4x4, 1x6) who scored his third successive fifty.

In between, Chirag Jani conceded just 19 runs off his quota and Prerak Mankad's twin blows in an over meant Karnataka's batting essay could never take off, folding up for 171 in the last over.

The scores (semifinals):

Karnataka 171 in 49.1 overs (R. Samarth 88, Jaydev Unadkat 4/26) lost to Saurashtra 172/5 in 36.2 overs (Jay Gohil 61, Prerak Mankad 35).

Maharashtra 350/7 in 50 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 168, Ankeet Bawane 110, Mukhtar Hussain 3/42) bt Assam 338/8 in 50 overs (Swarupam Purkayastha 95, Sibsankar Roy 78, Rishav Das 53, Rajvardhan Hangargekar 4/65).

'Would rate the innings against UP higher'

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Ruturaj Gaikwad followed up his unbeaten double century with a knock of 168 against Assam in the Vijay Hazare Trophy semifinal on Wednesday.

The Maharashtra captain rated his double hundred higher than his 168 which came off just 126 balls.

"No disrespect to the Assam bowlers, but Uttar Pradesh was a far better and all-round attack. And we had lost two early wickets and it was my first comeback game after the injury and our first knockout game, so there was much more pressure so I would rate the innings against UP higher," Ruturaj told *The Hindu* after leading Maharashtra into its maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy final.

Ruturaj was set to become the first batter to score successive double hundreds in limited-overs cricket. However, he fell short after finally mistiming one off Riyan Parag and caught in the deep.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Unbeaten ton by Shivu

M. Shivu scored an unbeaten 117 to lead Dooravani Cricketers (1) to an eight-wicket win over Bangalore SC in the quarterfinals of the KSCA (Group I) under-14 inter-club tournament.

The scores:

Bangalore SC 241 in 50 overs (G. Aravind 91, N.S. Shaurya 38, Kaustbh Gupta 48) lost to Dooravani Cricketers (1) 243/2 in 43.1 overs (Harshit Pai 25, M. Shivu 117 n.o., Mohammed Ayaan Bibin 45).

Vultures CC 273/4 in 50 overs (Vedaraj K. Yadav 56, N.P. Vivek 116) bt Social Cricketers 116 in 38.4 overs (T.L. Arya Pranesh 32, K. Samarth Vinay Kumar 28, Dheeganth S. Mavinkere 5/25, Medhas Mukund 3/18).

Mount Joy CC 77 in 45.5 overs (Naitik Aswani 3/9) lost to Young Lions Club 78/2 in 30 overs (Arjun Aravind Potti 30, Karan Raghavendra 31 n.o.).

FUCC (1) 272/9 in 50 overs (Rithvik Kulasekar 45, B. Sharvesh Kulothungan 27, A.A. Rohith 45, Abhishek N. Gowda 54, J. Sukruth 3/36) bt Swastic Union CC (2) 244/6 in 50 overs (M. Assad 126, J. Sukruth 54, Abhinav Nag 3/56).

Easy for Alchemy International FA

Alchemy International FA defeated BYFL 7-3 in the under-17 category of the KSFA Youth Premier League football here on Wednesday.

Roshini to lead

Roshini Kiran will lead Karnataka in the BCCI under-19 women's one-day trophy to be held in Chennai from December 7 to 14.

The squad:

Roshini Kiran (Capt.), Niki Prasad, Mithila Vinod, G.R. Prerana, Soumya Verma, Rakshitha Nayaka, Savi Surendra, Reema Fareed, B.G. Tejashwini, Harshitha Shekhar, Vandita K.Rao, Sloka Veera Hyndhavi, G. Poojitha, Aditi Bakka and S. Chinmayee.

Shanul shines with a brace

Shanul's brace helped Delhi Public School, East beat Blue Star HC 3-1 to finish atop the KSHA C-division hockey league standings, here on Wednesday. Blue Star was second, followed by Sahyadri HC, Shivamogga and East India HC. All four teams have been promoted to the B-division.

The results:

Sahyadri, Shivamogga 2 (D.U. Srikanth 29, V.M. Sanjay Kumar 47) bt East India 1 (Karthik 54); DPS, East 3 (Shahnul 49, 56, C.H. Mohammed Ashou 55) bt Blue Star HC 1 (M. Dhanush 3).